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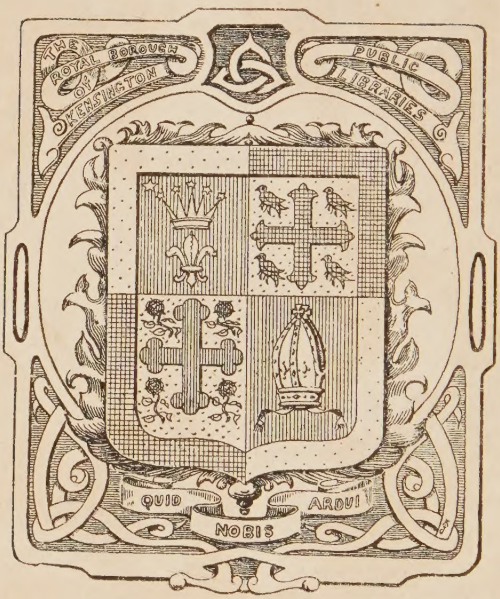
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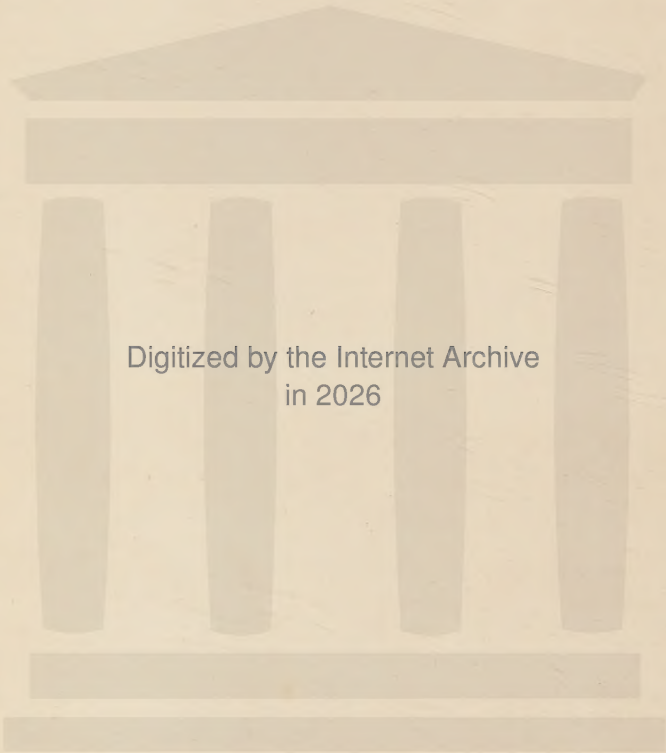

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A GUIDE

TO THE

ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES

IN THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OXFORD.

PUBLISHED BY THE OXFORD SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE STUDY OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The principal object proposed in this publication was stated in the outset to be, to assist the Members of the Society in the practical study of Gothic Architecture. This object it is hoped has now been accomplished. The Work comprises an account of eighty Churches and Parishes in Oxfordshire, situated within twelve miles of Oxford; the architectural descriptions are believed to be sufficient as a guide for students to lead them to discriminate the styles and the dates of the different parts of a building, so far as this is practicable without the aid of experience. If these descriptions are found to give the student an increased interest in the pursuit, and make him desirous to investigate carefully the history of every building which comes in his way by the evidence afforded by the building itself, it will have accomplished all that can be expected. The historical notices are not confined to the Churches, but contain all the information that could be collected respecting the history of the respective Parishes also. This part of the work has been considerably extended during its progress; the researches which were originally set on foot with a view to ascertain how far the recorded history of the Churches would be found to agree with their architectural character, and thus either to confirm or modify the received chronology of the art in this country, have led to the discovery of much curious and valuable matter belonging more properly perhaps to a County History than to a work of this limited nature. But the absence of any such History of Oxfordshire rendered it imperative to preserve the information thus collected. These notices do not add materially to the bulk or expense of the work, while to many persons they form the most valuable part of it, and to almost all they will be found interesting. The Society is much indebted to the Rev. John Baron, M.A., of Queen's College, Vicar of Waterpery, for the indefatigable industry and unwearied patience with which he has pursued the investigations connected with this part of the work. Those who have had

occasion to consult the manuscripts of the middle ages with very little clue to the object of research, will know how to appreciate his labours. In the earlier part of the Guide the invaluable "Parochial Antiquities of Ambrosden and Burcester, by Bishop Kennett," supplied almost all that was necessary, but in the latter part, being beyond his district, this help was entirely wanting, and Mr. Baron has proved no unworthy follower in the path which he had pointed out, and in which he had so ably led the way. Our Guide comprises that part of the Deanery of Bicester which lies within the limits prescribed, and the whole of the Deaneries of Woodstock and of Cuddesden[a]; these are subdivided into seven Rides, each forming a good day's excursion; by starting early from Oxford and returning late, the student would be able to see and take hasty notes of each of the Churches comprised in the Ride. This arrangement was adopted with the double object of attending to the established ecclesiastical divisions, and of bringing together the descriptions of those Churches which are locally situated near to each other. That the arrangement in Deaneries is on the whole the best for this purpose seems to be now generally acknowledged. One part of our plan was to give some notice of every Church in the district, so that the ground should be completely surveyed, and we regret that this plan has not been more generally acted upon in other instances, as it is in this way only that we can ever hope to obtain a complete Architectural Survey of all England, an object much to be desired and encouraged. There are still very many valuable specimens of medieval art and excellent examples for modern imitation remaining unnoticed and unknown for want of such a survey.

Our Guide was originally intended to have included the Deanery of Abingdon in Berkshire, but the limits proposed being already exceeded, and the bulk of the volume as large as is consistent with convenience, it has been found necessary to defer this part of the plan.

[a] With the exception of Dorchester, Haseley, and Iffley, of which separate accounts have been published; and Nettlebed, which is modern, and beyond our limits.

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INTRODUCTION.

The object proposed in this publication is to assist the junior members of the Society in the practical study of Gothic Architecture. Presuming that they already possess such a knowledge of the subject as is supplied by the usual elementary works, we would lead them to seek for more detailed and accurate information by the study of buildings rather than of books: these may supply good general rules, but liable to so many exceptions, that any student who attempts to apply them will at first find himself very much at fault, and will speedily discover that to describe with tolerable accuracy the different parts of almost any old Church, with the style and probable date of each portion, requires considerable practice, or the assistance of a more experienced guide; and as such a person is not always at hand, it is hoped that this printed Guide may in some degree supply the deficiency, and that when a student has examined a few such buildings with this help, he will be better enabled to study others without it. Every building of the middle ages may be considered as a subject for study from which something may be learned; and the student who has advanced so far as to feel this will never be at a loss for objects of amusement and interest in any part of England, or indeed of Europe; for although there are peculiarities belonging to each country, and to a great extent also to each district, the general features of Gothic Architecture

are the same in all; and the more closely its history is investigated, the more nearly we shall probably find its progress to have been simultaneous.

The plan proposed in the work, of which the First Part is now placed in the hands of our members, is to furnish *some account of* EVERY CHURCH within a circuit of twelve miles from Oxford; even in those cases where the Church is modern and altogether unworthy of notice, the information of this fact may save many a student a fruitless walk or ride; whenever the Church is old, it will not be found entirely devoid of interest. This First Part of the Guide contains those Churches in the Deanery of Bicester which come within our limit, and it is intended to follow it up with the other Deaneries in succession, as this ancient Ecclesiastical division of the country seems the most convenient for our purpose: at the same time, the Churches within the Deanery are arranged in the order of a ride from Oxford, going by one route and returning by another, and a slight map of the route is prefixed to enable strangers to make use of it.

The motives for selecting the Deanery of Bicester to begin with, were, first, that the Churches themselves are of a very interesting character, and little known; secondly, that more particulars respecting their history have been collected by the laborious researches of Bishop Kennett than can often be found relating to mere country parishes; and these "Historical Notices" which are appended to the Architectural description of each Church, add considerably to the interest of the work. Bishop Kennett's Parochial Antiquities are arranged in chronological order, which renders it often difficult to make out clearly the history of each parish separately; this, however,

had been in a great degree prepared ready to our hands in Mr. Dunkin's History of the Hundred of Ploughley, which consists chiefly of a useful digest of Bishop Kennett's learned researches; and we have not scrupled to avail ourselves of this assistance, more especially as Mr. Dunkin's work was limited to a very small number of copies, and is now difficult to meet with. In speaking only of Churches, it is not intended to confine the work to them, whenever any other Gothic buildings come within our range; but the domestic buildings of the middle ages, though worthy of more attention than they have hitherto met with, are not very common, and our district is not rich in them. It may be asked why we did not commence our work with the buildings of Oxford itself; but it may be presumed that the generality of our members are well acquainted with them, and the excellent illustrations afforded in Dr. Ingram's valuable Memorials, seem to have in a great degree forestalled us.

In presenting this First Part of the proposed Guide to the Architectural Antiquities of the neighbourhood of Oxford to our members, it seems necessary to make a few remarks on the buildings contained in it, their general character and peculiarities: and this affords a good opportunity of calling attention to the fact, that although the four Styles of Gothic Architecture are almost as distinct and as well known as the three Orders of Grecian Architecture, yet that the number of buildings which do not belong to any of these styles is much more numerous than is commonly supposed; and this arising not merely from different parts of a building being of different ages, but from so many buildings being erected during the periods of transition from one style to another. Gothic Architecture never stood

still; and as we have many buildings early or late in each particular style, so we have also others which do not properly belong to either, and can only be described as belonging to the period of transition from one to the other.

The number of buildings erected about the end of the twelfth century, during the reigns of Richard I. and John, when the change from the Norman to the Early English style was in progress, has led Mr. Bloxam to make a new style of this period of transition, which he has called Semi-Norman. The objection to this is, that it is impossible to define such a style, some buildings being almost Norman, with just a beginning of change; others almost Early English, with just a last lingering remnant of Norman work; and this continues, in some instances, to a period when the Early English style was in general fully established. Instances of this transition will be found in the Churches of Islip, Chesterton, and Middleton Stoney.

The second period of transition, from the Early English to the Decorated styles, about the time of Edward I., is less marked, and consequently not so generally known as the former one; instances of it are, however, very common, and some persons have proposed to make another new style of this, under the name of Geometrical Gothic. The same objection applies to this as in the former instance; it is impossible to define such a style; the later examples of Early English, in which we have foliated circles in the head of the window, and the earlier examples of Decorated, in which we have these combined with trefoils, and other geometrical forms, would equally belong to it. It may truly be said, that all Gothic Architecture is Geometrical. Geometry is the very

soul and essence of Gothic, pervading every part of it, and an Architect who is ignorant of Geometry does not deserve the name, and is not fit to erect any Gothic building. A good example of this transition occurs in the east window of Hampton Poyle (p. 53,) and the tower of Oddington, (p. 7.)

The transition from the Decorated to the Perpendicular styles has been less noticed than either of the others, from the circumstance of its character being less marked and obvious, discovered rather by the mouldings and details than by any general features, although instances do occur of a mixture of Decorated and Perpendicular tracery in the head of a window, as in the east window of Charlton on Otmoor, (p. 10.) Most of the buildings erected in the latter part of the fourteenth century, during the reign of Richard II., partake of this mixed character.

Of the anomalous class of buildings supposed by some persons to be Saxon, and called by Mr. Bloxam the Saxon style, we have a good example in the tower of Caversfield Church, to which we have endeavoured to do ample justice at pp. 30, 31. Here, as in other instances, this work is so much mixed up with other features having the usual character of Norman, as to make it very doubtful whether any part of it is really of an earlier age, or merely rude country work, such as may be found at all periods. This remark applies equally to Bicester, (p. 24.)

Of the Norman style, we have some good examples in the North Porch of Caversfield and the Tower of Bucknell.

Of the Early English style, the Nave of Charlton on Otmoor, the South Arches of Bicester, the Chancel of Bucknell (a fine example,) the Tower of Middleton Stoney, and the Nave of Kirtlington.

Of Decorated, Merton Church is nearly a perfect specimen. The South Aisle of Ambrosden is very rich and good; the Tower and south side of the Nave of Chesterton, the Nave of Hampton Poyle.

Of Perpendicular, the Towers of Islip and Bicester, the Chancel of Ambrosden, the Clerestory and Porch of Bicester, and many windows inserted in all the Churches.

This Part of the Guide has been prepared by Mr. J. Henry Parker and Mr. William Grey of Magdalene Hall, who visited all the Churches together, and generally one took notes of them while the other made sketches of the most interesting features. These rough notes, made on the spot, have been printed with very little alteration, neither party having time to prepare a more elaborate work, but in any case where a doubt was entertained on any particular point, the Church has been visited again. It is hoped that the publication of this specimen will lead to an improvement in the subsequent parts of the Guide, and that other members of the Society will come forward and render their assistance; that one who is conversant with the manuscripts of the middle ages, will examine the Bishops' Registers, or other documents, calculated to throw light upon the history of the Churches; another who is conversant with Heraldry, will examine the different monuments, and see what light can be thrown from that source, (as has been done in the case of the monument at Caversfield, the date of which was ascertained by means of the Heraldry, with the kind assistance of the Count Mortara, and the Rev. Dr. Bandinel;) another who can draw, to make sketches, accompanied by measurements which are indispensable in Architectural drawing; another who is con-

versant with the costume of different periods, to examine the various heads which occur as corbels, &c., in almost every Church, and see how far they agree with the Architectural character, and the date thereby assigned. In this way a far more valuable work may be produced than is promised by the present imperfect attempt, but it appeared that unless some one made a beginning nothing would be done, and it is hoped that even this, imperfect and superficial as it is, may be found useful.

I.H.P.

Oxford, Oct. 10, 1842.

ISLIP.

PATRONS.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

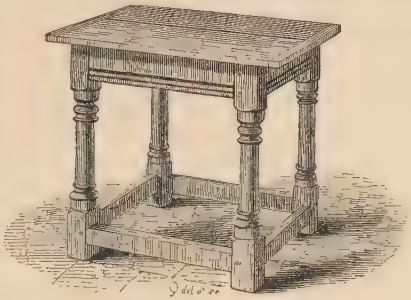
	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	40	0	by	18	6
Nave	50	0	by	21	0
N. Aisle	50	0	by	15	6
S. Aisle	50	0	by	11	0
Vestry	10	9	by	9	0

There can be little doubt that there was a Church at Islip in the Saxon times, but no part of the present building appears to be earlier than about the end of the twelfth century, to which date the pillars and arches on the north side of the nave must be attributed. The Church appears to have been in a great degree rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and the tower added in the fifteenth. The Chancel was probably destroyed in the civil wars, and rebuilt soon after the Restoration.

Chancel.—Built by the celebrated Dr. Robert South, in 1680, in the debased Gothic style, prevalent at that period. The circumstance of this Chancel being rebuilt so soon after the restoration of the Church of England, and by a divine so well known for the orthodox character of his writings, attaches a degree of importance which would not otherwise belong to it, and therefore makes it necessary to describe it more minutely than its own merits would require. Of the architecture little need be said, but that it is a favourable specimen of that age, though not free from the usual faults; the windows have semicircular heads, with the mullions crossing and intersecting each other in the head, without foliation; the masonry is good and substantial, buttresses not being required are not used; the roof is of too low a pitch to have a good effect, but the timbers are left open, without much ornament, excepting the eastern bay immediately over the Altar; this has a plaster ceiling, which, though now mutilated is sufficiently perfect to shew that it was richly painted in the best style of the period, with the Dove in the centre represented as descending, surrounded by cherubim. The portion of wall immediately over the east window is painted in imitation of open Gothic work, with the date 1680. On one of the beams of the roof is this inscription:

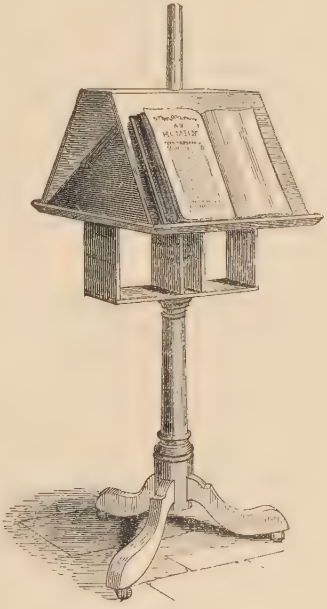
"ROBERTUS SOUTH S. T. P. IN ECCLESIAM HANC PAROCHIALEM INDUCTUS ANNO DOMINI 1678, PROPRIIS SUMPTIBUS HANC CANCELLARIAM A FUNDAMENTIS INSTAURAVIT EXTRUXITQVE. ANNO Dni. 1680."

The Communion-table is plain and substantial oak, of the usual style of Charles II. In the vestry are preserved the small Credence-table, also of oak, corresponding exactly with the larger table, and a plain oak Lettern of the same period, the upper part of which is square, having two desks, and turning on a pivot on the top of a plain round pillar.



Credence Table A.D 1680

The Altar-rail is plain, of the same age as the above; this end of the Chancel is raised one step. On the north side of the Chancel is the vestry, of the same date, but built in imitation of an Early English chapel, with small lancet windows. In the vestry is the parish chest, of plain oak, in which are preserved the Chalice and Paten, also of the same date; these are of pewter, being probably the best that could then be afforded; their place has since been supplied by silver.



Lettern, A.D. 1680

The Chancel-arch belongs to the old part of the Church, and is plain work of the fourteenth century. Parts of the old Rood-screen remain, with the linen pattern panel, marking it to be of about the time of Henry VIII. Other parts are preserved in the vestry, but are plain and mutilated.

Nave—North side—three arches, Transition Norman, pointed with flat soffit, the edges slightly chamfered. These rest on pillars

of the same style, very short and massive; one square in section, with shafts at the angles, and a plain Norman capital, the other plain round, with sculptured Norman capital; the two Responds, or half pillars, correspond nearly with the square pillar, but the shafts have more of Early English character. In the eastern pillar a Decorated niche is inserted.

South side—three arches, of plain work in the Decorated style.

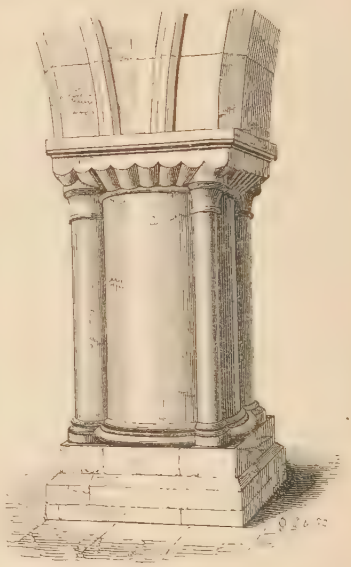
Roof—plain open timber of good construction, with garret windows inserted afterwards.

Tower-arch—good Perpendicular, now plastered up, and a gallery brought out in front of it.

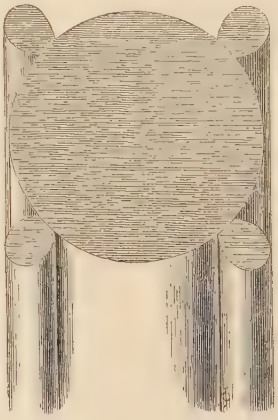
Pews—mostly open, good old oak, some agreeing with Dr. South's other work. Several enclosed pews have been introduced of late years.

Pulpit—plain, probably Dr. South's work.

Font—stands at the west end of the nave, good Perpendicular, octagon cup-shaped, with a quatrefoil panel on each face.



Pillar, North side of Nave, c. 1200.



Section of Pillar.

North Aisle—Decorated, good windows at each end; the east window lately (1842) restored in a creditable manner; the side windows are still in a bad state, with their tracery cut out. On the north wall of this aisle some ancient painting has recently

been discovered, (March, 1842,) and the whitewash of a small part scraped off, but very little can as yet be made out. In this wall there is a small Decorated door now blocked up. A bracket at the east end of the aisle shews the situation of a Chantry-altar.

South Aisle—Decorated, the windows mostly mutilated; the west window looks like a small Early Norman one, but is only an imitation, of the time of Charles II. At the east end of this aisle is a Decorated Piscina, partly concealed by modern pewing; this of course marks the situation of another Altar. On the south wall of this aisle is a curious painting of the offerings of the three kings to the infant Saviour, date about 1360, as appeared from an inscription visible at the time it was discovered, in 1824.

Roofs of both aisles open timber, plain rough work, but original. South doorway and porch Decorated; on the east side of the door under the porch is a Stoup of the same period, but mutilated.

The Tower is good plain Perpendicular, of four stages, with pinnacles at the angles; the west door is a good specimen of this style. I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In 1009, King Ethelred kept the greatest part of his residence in this county, chiefly at Hedington and Islip[a]. (Vide Kennett's Parochial Antiquities, 1808. vol. i. p. 62; for other notices respecting Islip, see also pages 36, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 85, 93, 97, 101, 110, 111, 257, 436, 467, and 582; vol. ii. pages 5, 140, 143, 339, and 385.) King Edward (whom for his piety and chastity our forefathers honoured with the title of Confessor) was born here, as is made evident by the original charter of the restoration of the Abbey of Westminster, wherein he gives to that Church the town of Islip, with this additional clause, "The place where I was born." Sir William Dugdale mentions nothing of this charter in his "Monasticon;" but the Saxon copy of the greatest part of it was discovered by Dr. Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough, and is published with other instruments relating to the antiquities of Ambrosden, Bur-

[a] Islip, in Saxon Lygtlepe, called anciently "Ghistlipe;" in the Pipe Rolls of King Henry II., "Hiltesleape;" in a Charter of the same king's, "Ileslepe;" and in a presentation of the Abbey of Westminster, 6th Henry III., "Ighteslep."

cester, and some other parishes of this county. In this charter this town is called Lyðrlepe[b].

When King Edward founded the Monastery of St. Peter at Westminster, he gave to it this village of Githslepe, as it was then spelled. Notwithstanding this grant, William the Conqueror seized upon the Islip estate, and bestowed it upon the valiant Hugh de Grentmaisnil, who gave it, as a marriage portion, to his daughter Adeline, the wife of Roger de Ivery. Soon after the death of Jeffrey de Ivery, to whom it descended, the manor and other estates of the lordship of Islip were granted to William de Curcy, who dying about 1173, the land again reverted to the crown. The Abbot and Convent of Westminster, availing themselves of this circumstance, tendered their claim to the village and liberties of Islip, and ultimately succeeded in gaining the restitution of their properties here; and still retain it. They soon after found the chapel of the palace, which stood near the Church, in a state of dilapidation, and either repaired or rebuilt it, as was attested by the lancet windows in the eastern wall. An engraving of it was published by Hearne in his preface to "Curious Discourses," A.D. 1720, and a copy of it is given in Mr. Dunkin's History of the Hundreds of Ploughley and Bullington. It was in the eighteenth century used as a barn or outhouse, till about 1780, when, being in a dangerous state, it was taken down. The old Font belonging to this chapel has been generally, but erroneously, supposed to have been that in which Edward the Confessor was baptized; no one, however, in the least acquainted with the character of Fonts at that period, can for a moment entertain such an idea; it appears to be of about the end of the fourteenth century, and is now carefully preserved in the Rectory garden.

TRANSLATION OF THE ORIGINAL SAXON CHARTER.

Edward, king, greeteth Wlsy, bishop, and Gyrth, earl, and all my nobles in Oxfordshire. And I tell you that I have given to Christ and St. Peter into Westminster that small village wherein I was born, by name Githslepe, and one hide at Mersce, scot-free and rent-free, with all the things which belong thereunto, in wood and field, in meadows and waters, with Church, and with the immunities of the Church, as fully and as largely, and as free as it stood in mine own hand; and also as my mother Imme, upon my right of primogeniture, for my maintenance gave it me entire, and bequeathed it to the family.—Kennett, vol. i. p. 68, 69.

[b] Magna Britannia 1727, vol. iv. p. 403.

ODDINGTON.

PATRONS.
TRINITY COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Andrew.

DEANERY
OF BICESTER.
HUNDRED
OF PLOUGHLEY.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	27	3	by	15	9
Nave	46	0	by	21	7

This Church is plain Decorated, at least so much as remains of the original work, but it is so much mutilated, and concealed by plaster, that it is difficult to make out what it has been.

In the Chancel there is an elegant Decorated Piscina, and the Chancel-arch was plain Decorated, but is now an ugly low plaster one. The east window is restored Perpendicular. In the Chancel is a small Brass, a skeleton in a shroud, to Radulph Hamsterley, Fellow of Merton College, Rector of this parish. . . . Anno 15 . . . Mensis . . . [The blanks have never been filled up.]

Tower of Oddington Church. c 1300.

The Nave has Early Decorated buttresses; on the north side is an arch, stopped up, which appears to have opened into a chapel now destroyed.

Pews—good plain open benches. Font—plain, round, lined with lead, probably the same age as the Church, and therefore of the Decorated style, though without any ornament. South Porch has an Early Decorated doorway.

Tower—good, Early Decorated, plain, of two stories; windows—lancet-shaped with foliated heads; arch—plain Pointed, not chamfered, now plastered up.

In the Church-yard is the shaft of a Cross. W.G.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In 1079, Adeline, widow of Roger de Ivery, held, by inheritance from her father, lands in Charlton, *Otendon*, and Islip[c].

In 1138, Sir Rob. Gait, Knight, Lord of the manor of Hampton thence called Hampton Gait (now Gay), possessed a fourth part of the village of *Ottendun*, and going to Gilbert, Abbot of Daverlie, he desired and obtained leave to build an Abbey of the Cistertian order, in the said village of *Ottendun*, which accordingly he raised at his own charge, and endowed it with five virgates of land, which made the fourth part of a Knight's fee, and called it from the name of an adjoining wood, *Ottelei*[d].

In a short time the Monastery was found so much exposed to inundations, that the society petitioned for a removal; and in consequence of their representations, Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, was induced to grant them the park of Thame, in this county, and some land which had belonged to Nigel Kyre, for the purpose of building thereon. On their acquisition of this gift, the Monks lost no time in proceeding with the new fabric. The Convent was removed, and on July 21, A.D. 1138, the Church was dedicated to St. Mary, by the same Bishop, who in gratitude thereof was hereafter reputed the Founder[e].

[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 85.

[d] Kennett, vol. i. p. 126, 127. See also p. 149, 159, 276, 282, 295, 296. and vol. ii. p. 403.

[e] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 115.

CHARLTON

ON OTMOOR.

PATRONS.

THE PROVOST AND FELLOWS OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Mary the Virgin.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	36	9	by	14	6
Nave	40	0	by	21	0
Aisles	40	0	by	10	0

This Church appears to have been built about the middle of the thirteenth century, and the Chancel added or rebuilt at the end of the fourteenth. Some alterations were made and a story added to the tower in the fifteenth. No part of the original Norman Church remains.

Chancel—late Decorated and Transition to Perpendicular, a good specimen of this period, although the work is somewhat rude and clumsy, as might be expected in a remote country village.

East window of four lights, with ramified tracery, approaching to Perpendicular. Side windows of two lights, with more of Decorated character, but the labels over them, and the mouldings throughout, partake of the same mixed character. There are some good bits of original stained glass in the heads of all the windows; in that of the east window is an elegant little figure of the Virgin and Child.

East Window, c. 1380.

Sedilia and Piscina of the same late Decorated or Transition style, the label forming a square head to the whole. The work is rude and clumsy: in the piscina the *wooden* shelf remains.

Opposite to these is a plain sepulchral recess in the north wall, with an obtusely pointed arch: as there is no tomb under it, there can be little doubt that this was for the Easter sepulchre.

There are three steps to the Altar, with many of the encaustic tiles remaining, but in a very dirty and mutilated state.

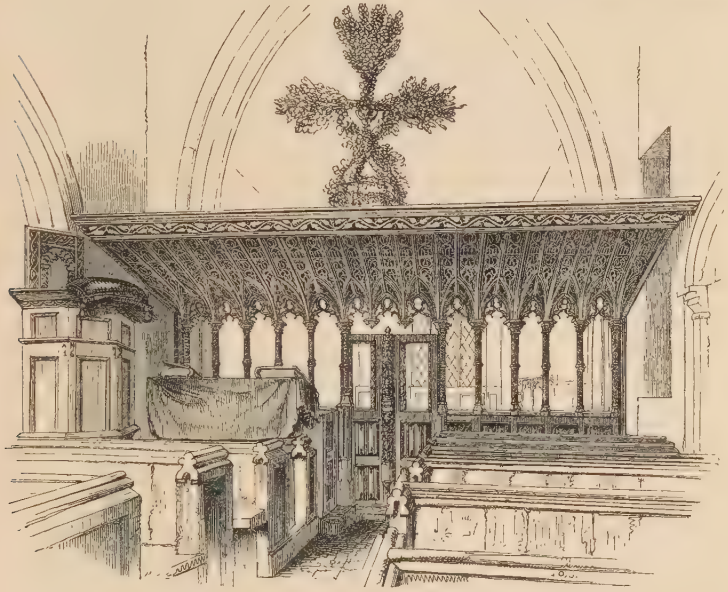
On the floor near the Easter sepulchre is a stone slab, with an elegant cross fleurée, of the fourteenth century, to the memory of a former Rector—John de France—but much defaced and the date lost.

The Altar-rail is a fine piece of oak carving, in the style of Grinling Gibbons.

The Chancel has a low flat plaster ceiling, which entirely spoils the Rood-arch.

The most interesting feature in this Church is the Rood-loft, which is a very fine and perfect specimen: it is of richly carved

oak, with the original painting and gilding, of the time of Henry VII, or VIII. The stone stairs to the Rood-loft are all cut away but two. The staircase arch, however, remains open.



Rood-loft. c. 1500.

On this Rood-loft a garland is placed from immemorial custom on May day, strung upon a wooden cross, which remains in the position of the ancient Holy Rood until the following year, when the flowers and evergreens are again renewed.

Nave—North side,—three Early English arches, acutely pointed, recessed, chamfered, on octagon shafts with plain circular caps, labels of early character, with good terminations.

South side, three similar arches, but the caps have the roll moulding, and the label is different in the inside, but on the outside, in the aisles, it is the same as that of the north arches, and is terminated by masks.

Clerestory—On north side three very good small quatrefoil windows remain, and are probably Early English: within they are splayed into a square opening, but the effect is very good. On the south side the windows are square common Perpendicular.

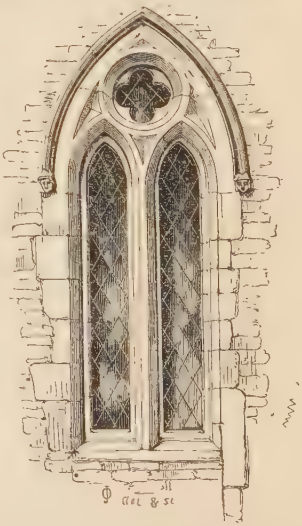
Roof of Nave spoiled by a modern flat plaster ceiling.

Pulpit, good Elizabethan, with the date, 1616. Pews in Nave, all good open seats, a few modern boxes introduced in the Chancel.

Crest of Font Cover

Font, plain, round, spreading upwards, stands on two steps, which are built in with the base of the west pillar on the north side, so that it is clearly all of one age, Early English. The cover is plain pyramidal, with a singular and good top to it, consisting of a sort of crest of the Tudor-flower.

North Aisle, windows Decorated, but in Early English walls; at the east end a plain Early English Piscina and Bracket.



East End of the North Aisle, c. 1260.

South Aisle, east window Early English, late in the style, label the roll moulding, with masks for terminations, window of two lights, with foliated circle in the head. Near this also an Early English Piscina, and Bracket. Other windows Decorated, and a square Perpendicular insertion. This aisle has a good parapet, ornamented with sunk quatrefoils, Early English, late in the style. The south door and porch are plain Early English: over the door is a Perpendicular panelled niche, for a Holy Rood. Roofs of aisles, plain open timber, rough work.

Tower, Early English, with a Perpendicular upper story added, lower windows lancet, upper original windows two light Early English with open head, and roll moulding for

labels, terminated by masks. Upper windows and parapet Perpendicular, with good pinnacles at the angles.

Tower-arch good Early English, but plastered up to accommodate a singing gallery, which is as usual brought out into the Church, instead of being placed *in* the tower.

The masonry of this Church is very good, entirely built of small stones, with a marked difference between that of the Aisles and Tower, and the Chancel, though both good. It has buttresses only at the angles, none being required at the sides.

The cross in the Church-yard is plain, and much worn, but is probably Early English.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In 1076, or before, Hugh de Grentemaisnil, father of Adeline, wife of Roger de Ivery, among other large possessions given by him to his restored Monastery of St. Ebrulf[a], in Normandy, granted the Church of Charlton-upon-Otmoore, with the tithes, and five virgates of land, and one villain, &c., &c., which grants William the Conqueror confirmed to those monks by a large charter, dated at Winchester, 1081[b].

In 1392, the patronage of the Church of Charlton-upon-Otmoore, being now in the crown, king Richard the Second gave the perpetual advowson to the prioress and nuns of Henwode, county of Warwick, to the intent the said Church might be united for ever to the said nunnery,

[a] The monastery of St. Ebrulf, or St. Evran, was founded for Benedictine monks by one Ebrulf, in the reign of Clothair I., A.D. 578, and being almost destroyed by the intestine ravages of the Franks and Normans, was restored, in 1049, by William Geronis, and his nephews Robert and Hugh de Grentmaisnil; and in the following year Robert assumed the habit and became a monk. [Guil. Gemet. sub an. 1051, p. 280.] On the death of Theodoric, the Abbot, he was elected to the vacant dignity, but was driven from his house and banished by Duke William. He found an asylum in the dominions of his countryman, Robert duke of Calabria, and built a new monastery nigh Brepe, on the shores of the Adriatic sea, where he died, after having governed the community seventeen years. —Neustria Pia, p. 104, 105, Rothomag 1663. Also some account of the Alien Priories, collected from the MSS. of Warburton and Ducarel, vol. ii. p. 81, 82; London, 1786. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 210. —Ordericus Vitalis, p. 603. Mon. Ang. tom. ii. p. 966.

[b] Kennett, vol. i. p. 84; see also p. 85, 97, 101, 110, 131, 296, 357, 371, and 372; vol. ii. p. 85.

provided a sufficient portion should be allotted for the endowment of a perpetual vicar, and that a due portion at the Diocesan's discretion should be yearly allowed for the better support of the poorer parishioners of the said village of Charlton, which gift King Henry the Fourth did afterwards confirm [c]. And Pope Innocent the Seventh, in the first year of his pontificate, upon petition of the said prioress and nuns, did allow them to appropriate the said Church on death or cession of the present Rector [d].

Henry the Fifth, in the third year of his reign, annexed this Church, together with the greater number of the estates formerly belonging to the Alien Priory of Ware, to the Carthusian Monastery of Shene, in the county of Surrey.

After the dissolution of that Monastery, it appears that the advowson of this Church was the property of William Dening and John and Lancelot Shaw, and that they did homage for it [e].

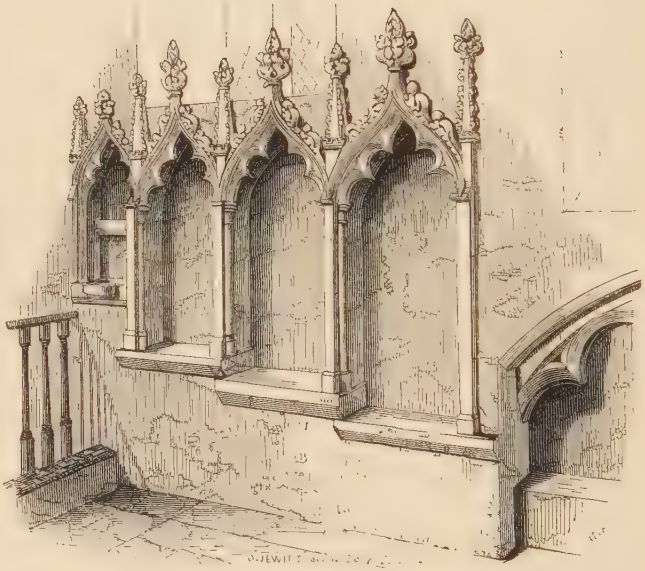
By indenture bearing date 20th May, 1567, [10 Eliz.,] Alan Scott, the Rector of Charlton, and the Provost and Fellows and Scholars of Queen's College, Oxford, patrons of the same, granted to William Shillingford, *alias* Izode, of Beckley, his heirs and assigns, a lease of the parsonage of this village for eighty-one years, on condition of his paying the said Alan Scott and his successors the sum of £20 per annum, in equal portions, at the four usual seasons of payment, and finding an able and sufficient curate, to be allowed by the ordinary to perform divine service and all other parochial duties, or, in case the said Alan or his successors do the duty, the said William Shillingford, *alias* Izode, further covenanting to repair the Chancel, whenever necessary, during the continuance of his lease.

Thomas Lamplugh, afterwards Archbishop of York, was Rector of this parish from 1658 to 1685.

[c] From the registers, this gift seems not to have been carried into effect.—Vide Dunkin, vol. i. p. 211.

[d] Mon. Ang. tom. i. p. 479; Kennett, vol. ii. p. 176, 204, 205, 210, and 220.

[e] Originalia, 28—35 Henry VIII., f. 295. b. No. 6365, Additional MSS. in Brit. Mus.



SEDILIA. MERTON CHURCH. c 1350

MERTON.

PATRONS.

THE RECTOR AND FELLOWS OF EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Swithen.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	35	7	by	15	0
Nave	61	0	by	19	0
S. Aisle	61	0	by	17	0

This Church is entirely of the Decorated style, and was probably built in the latter half of the fourteenth century, a few windows only being added, and the roof of the Nave rebuilt in the fifteenth.

Chancel—East window, three light, Perpendicular, but the label and stringcourse Decorated, the roll moulding. Three windows on the south side, of two lights, Perpendicular tracery inserted in Decorated arches, with hollows in the head.

In the Chancel there are some very good carved Decorated corbels to the roof and the arch; the roof of the Chancel spoiled by a plaster ceiling. Chancel-arch Decorated, pointed, recessed, chamfered, springing from rich corbels.

Sedilia and Piscina, good Decorated, rather late, with ogee arches, crockets and finials; the Piscina has a shelf and basin perfect; near these is a foliated ogee-arched sepulchral recess. The south-west window has a low seat under it, and adjoining a small Decorated door. On the north side a good Decorated locker, with ogee arch, having pinnacles, crockets, and finials.

Two mural monuments, of the time of Elizabeth.

The Communion-table plain and old, with the slab detached, as ordered by the injunctions of Elizabeth [f].

On the outside of the Chancel on the north side, is a small niche in the wall.

Nave—On the south side four Decorated arches, on octagon pillars, plain, with Decorated caps richly moulded: on the north side three arches walled up with their labels, having Decorated windows, and a door inserted in the wall under them: these have been moved back from the outer wall when the arches were filled up, and the aisle destroyed.

Roof of the Nave original Perpendicular, open timber, with a little of the old painting. Clerestory also Perpendicular.

Seats mostly open, plain and old, but higher than usual, some modern and very bad.

South Aisle, good Decorated; the east window has Decorated tracery, rather peculiar, between flowing and flamboyant. Two Decorated niches on the south side, and one on the north side of this window. Side windows very good, Decorated, two light, with quatrefoils in the head, one Perpendicular inserted.

South door, plain Decorated, with Perpendicular panel for a rood over it, the same as at Charlton.

Font plain, round, with an octagon shaft, probably Decorated, and has a pyramidal canopy of the time of Charles II.

Pulpit and Reading-desk carved oak scroll work, about the time of James I.

Tower situated at the west end, plain Decorated, and has a good ornamented parapet, window and niche; has had a spire, which was taken down about 1770, to save the expense of keeping it in repair. Tower-arch small and plain; west window, single light, cinque-foiled ogee head.

Porch, plain Decorated.

In the Church-yard is the base of an old Cross; the foot entrance to the Church-yard is worthy of notice, having the original coping, apparently of the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

W.G.

[f] See Mr. D. Parsons' Letter to the Oxford Heraldic Society.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

That the first Church in this village owes it origin and endowment to one of the early lords of the manor, is evident, from his successor, David, Earl of Huntingdon, having granted the advowson to the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham in the latter end of the reign of Henry I., A.D. 1118[f]; and shortly after, the same community, by a compact with the successive incumbents, reserved to themselves a pension of 30*s*. per annum out of its revenues[g].

On the twenty-second of June, 1351, the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham procured licence from King Edward III., to appropriate the Church of Merton to their Abbey, and soon after petitioned the Bishop of Lincoln, their diocesan, to grant them letters for this purpose, setting forth the following weighty reasons for the necessity of augmenting the revenues of their Convent: "that their Monastery, standing near the highway, was often frequented and burdened by travellers; that they had been engaged in many suits and trials in courts ecclesiastical and civil, by which they had contracted many and great debts; that a late raging pestilence had much diminished and detained their old rents and profits; and that their house, as well as their offices and other buildings, were much decayed, and they unable to repair or support them[h]. They therefore humbly prayed, that as the parish Church of Merton was only taxed at seventeen marks and ten shillings, it might be appropriated and for ever annexed to their Convent." The Bishop remarking the strong case adduced, consented to their request, and ordained that the appropriation should commence on the death or resignation of John de Wanse, the present Rector, reserving for a perpetual Vicar the yearly pension of ten marks, together with a manse in the village, and the sum of twenty shillings yearly to the See of Lincoln, to compensate for the pro-

[f] Regist. de Eynsham Chartæ 22, Apud Æd. Christ. Oxon., ap. Dunkin.

[g] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 9.

[h] Had their allegations been true to their full extent, the whole revenue of Merton Church could not have preserved the Convent from ruin; but as it was usual to set forth some cogent reasons in cases of appropriation, this seems to have been the nature of the formula, for nearly the same arguments are adduced for the appropriation of Hickfield, Hants, to New College, Oxford, A.D. 1383. See Reg. Wykeham Episc. Winton, p. 1, f. 144. After the Bishop had received this petition, it was common for him to order an inquisition to be taken of the matter; and as the petitioners generally contrived to procure a report which echoed back their previous statement, the mandate was granted without difficulty. Ap. Dunkin.

fits which would otherwise accrue to the said Bishop in the successive vacancies of the Church; further directing, that the aforesaid Abbot and Convent should discharge the Church and Vicarage of all ordinary and extraordinary burdens, repair the Chancel and its windows, and find all books, vestments, lamps, incense, &c., necessary for the celebration of Divine Service, excepting the bread and wine for the sacrament of the Altar, which the Vicar himself was to furnish at his own expense[i].

On the surrender of the Abbey of Eynsham, this Parsonage became vested in the crown, and, with other conventual estates, was subsequently granted to Sir William Petre, one of the visitors employed by Cromwell to enquire into the government and behaviour of the votaries of both sexes, preparatory to the dissolution of religious houses, as a reward for those services. In the latter part of his life, Sir William conveyed all right and title therein, together with the appropriations and advowsons of the Churches of *Yarnton*, *Kidlington*, and *Long Wittenham*, in the counties of Oxon and Bucks, to Exeter College, Oxford, where he had been educated[k].

Amidst the changes of religion, which took place in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and her sister Elizabeth, John Jones contrived to retain his vicarage of Merton, and died in possession, A.D. 1559.—*Dunkin*, vol. ii. p. 15.

In the village is a manor house, a building erected by the Doyleys in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and for more than a century the chief residence of the Haringtons, their descendants by a female heir. The mansion faces the north, and is entered by a porch leading through a passage to the hall, beyond which is a large parlour, remaining in the same state as left by Sir James Harington, the last member of that family who owned the estate. It appears that little alteration has been effected on the northern side since its original construction; the greater part of the ancient staircase remains, as well as the upper apartments. The kitchen is also entire, and below is a large cellar arched, now used as a dairy. The south front of the mansion is said to have been originally in the form of a Roman L, and a long gallery ran along the upper part, while the ground floor was occupied by parlours, &c. This portion of the edifice is now demolished[l].

[i] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 9, 10.
[k] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 14, 15.
[l] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 1, 2.

AMBROSDEN CHURCH FROM THE S E

AMBROSDEN.

PATRON.

SIR G. P. TURNER.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	18	6	by	17	5
Nave	66	4	by	22	2
Aisle	68	7	by	11	7
Tower	16	0	by	15	1

This is a fine Church, mostly of the Early Decorated style, about the time of Edward II., with a Tower somewhat earlier. The effect of the south front is very striking, from the richness of the open parapet and cornice to the aisle and porch, and the buttresses with their niches.

Chancel—Perpendicular, early in the style. East window, three lights; side windows, two lights. At the east end are two short pillar-brackets for images, one on each side the Altar, with Early English caps of stiff-leaf foliage.

Piscina—Perpendicular, on an octagon shaft.

The recesses of the north and south windows are continued below the lights, and stopped by a seat across.

Some encaustic tiles, but of very common patterns and common work.

Rood-arch—plain Perpendicular.

Pillar bracket, c. 1250.

Nave—South side, four Decorated arches, pointed, recessed, chamfered; the labels consist of the roll moulding and small corbel heads.

Pillars—plain octagon, with Decorated caps, but only two are in their original state.

North side—windows originally Early Decorated, but Perpendicular tracery inserted; two lights with quatrefoils.

Font—Perpendicular, octagon, cup-shaped, with a quatrefoil in each face; the shaft plain.

Seats—mostly old, open, and good, but some square enclosed pews have been introduced, and a gallery-pew has been put in at the east end of the north side, against the Chancel-arch: and the upper part of this arch is cut off by a large beam, supporting a board having the Royal Arms painted on it: the Commandments &c., are painted on the wall by the side of the arch.

Roof—the original open timber roof remains, but is concealed by a plaster ceiling; there is a gallery at the west end, and the Tower-arch is plastered up.

At the west end is a curious oil painting of the Resurrection, said to be of the last century; it is painted on the wall and partly on the plaster partition under the Tower-arch.

Pulpit—plain and modern, of wood, standing on a stone shaft, plain Decorated.

South Aisle—windows plain, two lights, early Decorated, with quatrefoil in the head.

The exterior has a good open parapet of trefoils, with spaces open above, and closed below; and a cornice of good Decorated work, filled with a row of heads and ball flowers.

South door—plain Decorated, with a niche over it.

Buttresses—early Decorated, with niches.

Porch—Decorated, the same age as the aisle, and with a good open parapet of trefoils enclosed in circles.

On the north side is a small plain Norman door; the parapet on this side is plain, with bold hollow cornice.

The Turret for the Rood-loft staircase, on the north side, now used as stairs to a gallery pew.

Tower—Early English, but late in the style, lower windows lancet, upper ones of two lights under one arch, closed in the head and divided by a shaft.

Parapet—battlemented, with a plain cornice.

Buttresses—on the north side, small, plain, and low, reaching only to the first story; on the south side, in three stages, to the second story.

The Parsonage House, a good old stone one, chiefly built by Dr. John Stubbing, in 1638, but its ancient character has been much spoiled lately by additions.

W.G.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name of the earliest priest belonging to this parish which appears in any known record is William, who is found subscribing to a confirmation [A.D. 1106, 6th Henry I.] by Joan de Piddington, of the hermitage and chapel of St. Cross, at Muswell, to Missenden Abbey, which had been previously annexed to the same by Ralph the hermit[m].

A.D. 1283. Edmund Earl of Cornwall founded the first College for the order of the Bonhommes at Esserugge, Asherugge, now Ashridge, in the county of Bucks, to which this Church of Ambrosden was soon after impropriated[n].

A.D. 1308. In the fifth year of Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, Edmund Earl of Cornwall presented a Rector to the Church of Ambrosden[o]. We may here observe, that Edmund Earl of Cornwall designed no part of the revenues of this Church of Ambrosden should be converted to the use of his new Convent, but he only trusts them with the presentation of a Clerk, on a charitable opinion that these good men would better execute the right of patronage, and more incorruptly provide an able incumbent. But too many guardians have embezzled

[m] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 9. Mon. Ang., vol. iii. p. 18.

[n] Kennett, vol. i. p. 423, 4.

[o] Rot. Ol. Sutton ep'i Linc. R. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. f. 144. Kennett, vol. i. p. 429.

a trust to their own proper use; so these holy brethren, without any regard to the donor's intention, soon resolved the inheritance should be theirs, and therefore, purchasing a deed of gift from the Pope, (who, like the tempter in the wilderness, offered what he had no right to bestow,) they quickly made themselves the perpetual Rector. And indeed in this manner was the illegitimate birth of most impropriations; the lay patrons devoutly (and as they thought innocently) resigned their right of presentations to religious houses, and they, by their interest and money, procured from the Popes an annexion of the tithes to themselves, with an arbitrary portion, or a poor settled reserve to a servant of theirs, whom they should call a Vicar[p].

A.D. 1334. The Bonhommes of the Convent of Ashrugge, to whom the presentation of this Church of Ambrosden was given by Edmund Earl of Cornwall, not content with the honour of patronage without the profit of the tithes, petitioned Pope Clement V. that he would authorize the appropriation of the said Church to their Convent, and effectually begged or bought the Pope's consent, given in letters missive, dated in this third year of his pontificate, and recited in the Bishop of Lincoln's licence, sub an. 1334. Thus at Rome began the sad abuse that yet wants a reformation[q].

During the time of this Vicar (Richard Hunt, admitted 1518) the suppression of religious houses took place, and their lands and livings were given to the King, who, in 1542, granted the patronage of this Church, by letters patent, to John Denton, Esq. The Vicar (Richard Hunt) died at Ambrosden, A.D. 1547[r].

The Vicarage of Ambrosden hath been much augmented by the purchase of a farm out of Queen Anne's Bounty at Arncott. Previous to the Reformation, this Church was included within the deanery of Cuddesdon, but at that period was attached to Bicester, where it now remains[s].

From the period of the dissolution of the Convent at Asherugge till the reign of Elizabeth, the Rectory of Ambrosden remained in possession of the crown; but that Queen having despoiled the See of Oxford during its long vacancy of several of the best estates, to make some amends, bestowed on it the endowment of several impropriations, among which was the present Rectory, then rated at 18*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* per annum[t].

[p] Kennett, vol. i. p. 440.
[q] Ibid., vol. i. p. 509.
[r] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 15.
[s] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 19.
[t] Ibid., vol. i. p. 20.

BICESTER.

PATRON.

SIR G. P. TURNER.

St. Eadburg.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

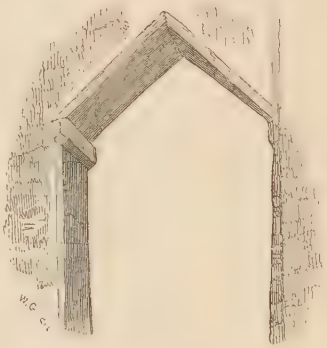
South Porch, circa 1420.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	39	0	by	17	0
Nave	82	0	by	28	0
Aisles	82	0	by	14	9

ORIGINALLY a Norman cruciform Church, with a central tower, now destroyed, and aisles added; the south in the thirteenth, the north in the fourteenth century; a western tower also added in the fifteenth.

Chancel—Has Norman walls and buttresses, with Decorated windows inserted, but the tracery of the east window has been cut out, and a modern semi-circular head turned on the outside; the mouldings of the jambs are Decorated: on the south side a Decorated window of two lights; on the north side a Decorated arch of wide span, originally opening into a chapel, now used as a school-room, and the arch plastered up.

Woodwork at the east end, very bad. On the north wall of the Chancel is an inscription on brass, to Roger Moore, 1551, and another in raised letters, to Will Stavely, and Alice his wife, 1498. A gilt helmet suspended as a funeral achievement.

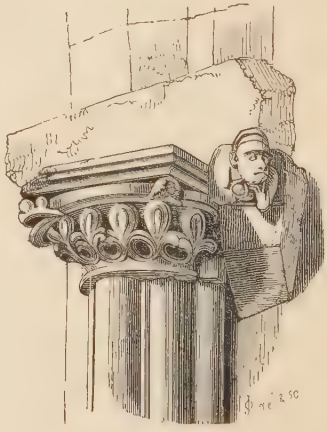


Supposed Saxon Arch in Nave.

The Rood-arch, and two arches on the west side of it Early Norman, plain, square edged, not recessed.

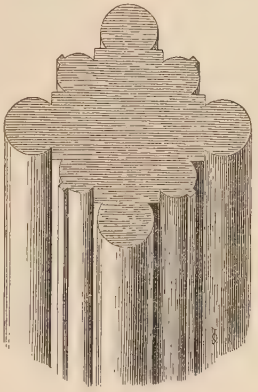
On the north side, west of this first Norman arch, is a small straight-sided arch, in a slanting direction, partaking of the supposed Saxon character; the impost and the edges of the arch are chamfered.

Nave—Has on the south side four Early English arches recessed, the inner arch chamfered; the outer has bold round mouldings, label, and corbel heads; the pillars are clustered; capitals have had the stiff-leafed foliage, now cut away, excepting on two in the south aisle, which are good, and part of the one by the pulpit. Against this pillar also are remains of a very elegant Decorated niche.



Capital, E. End of South Aisle, c. 1260

On the north side, three Decorated arches, not moulded, but recessed and chamfered, pillars octagon, with good Decorated cap mouldings. The Clerestory Perpendicular. The roof good, plain, open timber, Perpendicular. On the south wall of the Nave is some good Decorated sculpture, two square recessed panels, each with three small figures of Knights in armour, under foliated arches[u], and a female figure on a corbel, with a canopy over the head; a curious specimen.



Section of Pillar, S. side of Nave, c. 1260

Some original open seats remain, with plain bench ends. The stem of the pulpit is original oak, and good Perpendicular work. There are some fragments of screen-work. This Church is much spoiled by galleries, and by having the mullions and tracery of some of the windows cut out.

Font plain, polygonal, probably Early English.

South Aisle—Windows, some Decorated, and some Perpendicular, the tracery cut out.

A small, good, Perpendicular Piscina, with the label defaced.

South door, very good, Early English; mouldings of arch and caps perfect, the shafts gone: over this door another panel of sculpture.

North Aisle—Decorated, with some good two-light windows. Near the west end of the wall in this aisle, is a piece of zigzag moulding, as a string-course, very perfect, shewing that the Norman Church extended to this part, and had no aisles.

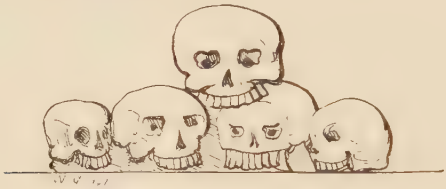
North Door—Good plain Decorated. Porch—Early Perpendicular, with a room over it.

Tower—Perpendicular, with arch of the same date, now plastered up; west door and window plain, but good, very deeply recessed. Belfry windows, of two lights, with transoms. Parapet battlemented; pinnacles at the angles, panelled and

[u] These are engraved by Skelton in his "Oxfordshire."

crocketed. This Tower bears so close a resemblance to that of Islip, that they are probably the work of the same hand.

In the Chancel is a marble slab to the memory of the five children of Samuel Blackwell, sometime Vicar, carved with sculls in a very grotesque manner.



SAMUEL BLACKWELL S.T.B. HUJUS ECCLESIÆ VICARIUS
ET MARIA UXOR
FILIIS AC FILIABUS SUIS
HIC IN PROXIMO SEPULTIS

SAMUELI	NATIS	MAII 26, 1676.	DENATIS	SEPT. 1, 1677.
SAMUELI		JAN. 4, 1678.		JAN. 31, 1678.
ELIZABETHÆ		APRIL 26, 1680.		FEB. 15, 1681.
JOHANNI		APRIL 17, 1681.		FEB. 14, 1681.
ELEANORÆ.		OCT. 21, 1683.		MART. 2, 1684.

PIETATIS CAUSA
MOERENTES POSUERE. W.G.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor the manors of Burcester, Ambrosden, Stratton, Weston, and many adjoining villages were a part of the large estate of Wigod de Walengford, a noble thane, who kept his residence at the town from whence he had his title, where at this time were two hundred and seventy-six houses, of which a mint master had one free from all geld while he coined money; but at the general survey in the next reign thirteen of these houses were diminished, and eight had been demolished to make a castle[x].

A.D. 1066. 1 William the Conqueror.—Among the Normans who were engaged in this expedition, those who were soon after rewarded with lands in these parts were, first Robert de Oiley, to whom the King gave *in marriage* the estate of Wigod de Walengford, and two other honors, including Burcester, &c., &c.[y]

A.D. 1073. Robert de Oily having now finished his castle in Oxford, built within the walls of it a chapel, dedicated to St. George, and established there a fraternity of secular priests, whom he endowed with several rights and possessions in these parts. He gave them the Churches of

[x] Kennett, vol. i. p. 74. [y] Ibid., vol. i. p. 75. See account of Bucknell, p. 36.

Cudelinton, Weston, Cestreton, &c., with two parts of all the tithe of his demesne in Berencestre [z].

A.D. 1084, 18, and 19, William the Conqueror.—Between the time of the survey taken in these parts and this year, Robert de Oilly married his only daughter Maud to Milo Crispin, who had before great possessions in the counties of Oxon and Bucks, and in right of this wife had now the custody of the castle and town of Walingford, with that whole honor, within which was included the manor of Berncestre [a].

Before the end of the year 1107 this great baron Milo Crispin died without issue, upon which his own proper estate reverted to the crown, but the castle and whole honor of Walingford remained in right of birth to Maud his widow, who from hence was called Matildis Domina de Walengfort [b].

It seems that during the time of Milo Crispin, seven knights fees of the honour of Wallingford were granted to Gilbert Basset, a younger son of Ralph Basset, Chief-Justice of England, and amongst these fees are the villages of Bicester, Wretchwic, and Stratton, particularly specified A.D. 1107 [c].

Gilbert Basset, in the year 1182, baron of Hedington, and lord of the manors of Burcester, Wrechwike, and Stratton, who had his mansion seat and park at Burcester, this year founded there a religious house for a Prior and eleven Canons of the Augustine order, dedicated to St. Edburg, with consent of Egeline, his wife, who, surviving her husband, and adding other benefactions, was reputed a co-founder [d]. Great part of the Priory seems to have been left standing for many years, but nothing can be said of its original form [e].

Remains of the Priory, 1842.

How long these buildings remained in their original state after the dissolution is uncertain; the Monastery afterwards became the residence of the Blounts, and was

[z] Kennett, vol. i. p. 81.

[a] Ibid., vol. i. p. 94.

[b] Mon. Ang. tom. i. p. 582, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 106.

[c] Dunkin's History of Bicester, p. 151.

[d] Kennett, vol. i. p. 185.

[e] Dunkin, p. 81.

probably then of considerable extent, but the only part remaining is a house, now occupied by a Mr. Wilson, who rents the gardens, and is 41 feet in length and $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth, one end of which forms a part of the boundary wall belonging to the Monastery[f].

Though we have no precise data for ascertaining the form or materials of the original Church of Bicester, recent discoveries have placed it beyond doubt that the present edifice has been constructed out of the remains of some former Church, built of stone, and decorated with carved ornaments[g].

Kennett states, that the present Church was built about the latter end of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, when the older structure was demolished[h].

In what way the sums necessary for building this fabric were raised, or who were the chief contributors of the undertaking, are points alike unknown. According to tradition, the Tower was originally intended to have been erected near the present Chancel, (and the massive thickness of the walls seems to countenance the statement,) but that the design was relinquished by the generous offer of the Vicar to build a tower at the west end at his own expense, which he afterwards carried into effect, and the present structure attests his taste and liberality[i].

The presentation belonged to the lords of the manor till the foundation of the Monastery by Gilbert Basset, when the Church was conveyed by charter to the Prior and Canons, who henceforth became its patrons, and annexed it to the Priory[k].

It was formerly usual for many of the inhabitants to pay sums for rents &c. in the parish Church, or in and over the Church porch, and to lodge copies of their leases &c. in the parish chests, many of which still remain in those depositories. An indenture, stipulating payments as above, is given by Kennett, made 1352, 26, 27 Edward III., between Sir John Trymnel and Thomas de Panton and Camerona, his wife, for the conveyance of the enfeoffment of two cottages, with their appurtenances, which were held by John Spaygue and John de Langton, in Bicester, for the yearly rent of twenty-nine shillings sterling, to be paid in the parish Church on Sunday after the octaves of St. Michael.

[f] Dunkin, p. 81.

[g] Ibid., p. 48, 49.

[h] Ibid., p. 49.

[i] Ibid., p. 50. There can be little doubt, from the existing remains, that there was a tower at the intersection of the original Norman Church in the twelfth century. The present tower at the west end is of the fifteenth century.

[k] Dunkin, p. 51.

In the Churchwardens' chest are also several leases of the estates given for charitable purposes, which expressly stipulate for the payment of rents on a certain day into the hands of Mr. John Coker in the room over the Church porch[1].

"Good wodds about sum partes of Burcester. There be goodly meddowes and pastures about Burcester. There is a commune market at Burcester every weke on a——day. There risyethe hard by Burcester a little broket passyng thrwghe a pece of the towne, and aftar thoroughe the Priory. It goithe a 4 miles of about Otmore into Charwell river.

The Bassets were Lords of this towne, after the Straunges, and now the Erle of Derby.

Sum say that Bassets had his mansion place where the comon pound is now in the midle of the towne.

Some say that Basset's Howse was where the late Priorie of Burcestre stode.

Gilberte Basset and Æglean Courtney, his wife, were originall foundars of the Priorie of Chanons in Burcester.

Æglean Courteney was buried in the Priorie of Burcester[m]."

[1] Dunkin, Appendix, p. 27

[m] Leland's Itinerary, vol. vii. folio 7.

CAVERSFIELD.

PATRONS.
TRUSTEES OF
THE LATE
J. BULLOCK, ESQ.

St. Lawrence.

DEANERY
OF BICESTER.
COUNTY
OF BUCKS.

West View of Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	29	6	by	13	9
Nave	30	0	by	13	9

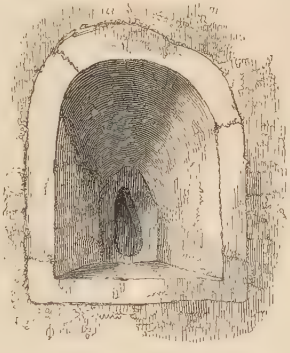
A SMALL Church or Chapel coated over with rough cast, having an antique appearance.

Plan—simple, oblong, without aisles.

Tower—at the west end, has a gable roof; no buttress; on the north and south sides a string-course of rude character. On the ground floor are small windows, of the character supposed to be Saxon, widely splayed outside and inside, with a very small opening in the middle of a very thick wall; that on the north side is blocked up outside and plastered over: on the east side is a round-headed arch also blocked up, and a Perpendicular door inserted under it. This arch has a plain dripstone, chamfered underneath, the imposts also chamfered under, resembling the usual early Norman impost or string-course. No windows in the upper part of the Tower, but a small square modern opening under the gable on the north side.

North Window.

South Window, Interior.

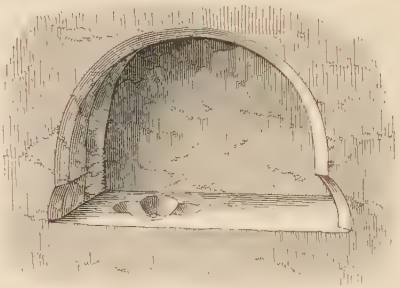


South Window, Exterior.

Nave—has, on the south side, two Early English arches, of early character, with good bold mouldings, and the tooth ornament. These arches are now filled up with masonry, an aisle having evidently been destroyed. On the north side, a good small Decorated window, of three lights, with flowing tracery.

Font Norman, round, with intersecting arcade round the upper part, of rude and early character.

Chancel—east end, two lancet windows, cut off by a plaster ceiling. A plain Norman Piscina.

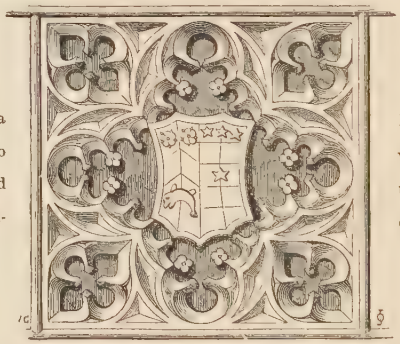


Piscina in Chancel.

On the south side, a lancet window and a Decorated window, square-headed inside, and pointed outside; also a square-headed Perpendicular window.

In the Chancel on the north side is a high tomb, commonly called an Altar-tomb, of the fifteenth century, with rich panels enclosing shields of arms, but all turned upside down.

LANGSTON: or, a chevron between two roses gules in chief; and in bases a dolphin haurient, azure.



Impaling DENTON, viz.: A mullet between two barrs, in chief three estoils.

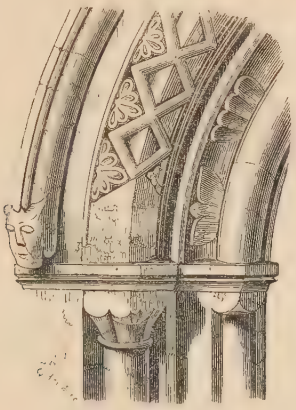
John Langston, Esq., who died ann. 1487, married Joan, daughter of John Denton. —*Browne Willis, in History and Antiquities of Buckingham.*

On the floor within the altar rails, a Brass, the inscription of which is gone: it has three scrolls with texts, proceeding from a heart held in a hand; a shield of arms under it. Another Brass, concealed under a modern pew, and a slab to Maximian Bond, Esq., 1690.

Chancel door, Early English, of the form called a square-headed trefoil.

Chancel-arch has parts of the Norman imposts remaining, partly cut away, and Perpendicular cap-mouldings inserted over them. Arch cut off by a plaster ceiling.

Porch—Norman, the outer doorway has good late Norman mouldings, and shafts, with scolloped capitals. The inner doorway is plain Norman, the pillars supporting them are Transition from Norman. I.H.P.



Mouldings and Capitals of Norman Doorway North Porch, circa 1180.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1222. Within this year the Abbot of Missenden presented a Clerk to the Church of Kaversfeld (now Casefield) nigh Burcester, as also to the Church of Chalfhunt, county of Bucks[n].

Caversfield, in the hundred and deanery of Buckingham, lies about two miles from Bicester in Oxfordshire, wholly surrounded by that county. The Manor of this place having been seized by King Henry II., in consequence of its owner, Brien Fitz-Count, having entered into a religious order, was granted to Robert Gargate, whose family gave a part of it to the Prior and Convent of Bicester, partly under whom, and partly in their own right, it seems to have been held for many generations by the Langstons. After the dissolution of Monasteries, they became possessed of the whole, which passed by a female heir to the Moyles, and afterwards by successive purchases to the families of Davenport and Bard[o], and Joseph Bullock, Esq., through whose daughter, married to the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, it descended to the present worthy possessor, Robert Bullock Marsham, D.C.L., Warden of Merton College, Oxford.

[n] Kennett, vol. i. p. 285.

[o] Lysons' Bucks, p. 534.

BUCKNELL.

PATRONS.

THE WARDEN AND FELLOWS OF NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Peter.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	35	6	by	19	6
Central Tower . . .	18	0	by	15	0
Nave	48	0	by	21	6

This Church is principally of the thirteenth century, with the tower of an earlier Church remaining in the centre, of very massive character. The Chancel is a fine specimen of the manner in which country Churches were built in the thirteenth century. The Nave is of the same age, but had a new Roof and Clerestory added in the fifteenth; a Clerestory without aisles is not a very common feature. Plan; oblong, without aisles.

The Tower is placed between the Nave and Chancel, and is plain early Norman, with a Perpendicular story added on the top.

Of the Tower-arches, three are plain, round-headed, square-edged, not recessed. The west arch remains nearly in its original state, but the imposts are cut away. The north and south arches are filled up, having small early Norman windows under them; these are on the outer face of the wall, splayed widely within; the imposts of the arches remain. The east arch cut into a pointed one, recessed, chamfered, with dripstone; the chamfers die into the piers without any marked imposts.

TOWER OF BUCKNELL CHURCH.

KENSINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

On the first floor of the Tower there is a small early Norman loop window, widely splayed within; on the second floor, Norman windows of two lights; the upper story has Perpendicular windows and battlement. On the north side of the Tower there is a very good early Norman stair-turret.

Chancel—good Early English, in nearly a perfect state, one window blocked up, and the roof plastered, but rounded and lofty: at the east end, three good lancet windows, with elegant shafts between them, supporting the arch mouldings, a very good design. Side windows, lancet, plain, but good; a low window on the north side at the west end, lancet outside, with square-headed opening inside. Neither Piscina nor Sedilia.

The Chancel has doors both on the north and south sides; that on the south side is very good Early English, that on the north side has been cut through at a much later period.

On the floor near the Altar, a Brass, to Edward Eure, Arm., 1638, with shields of arms, and inscription.

Nave—west end, a lancet window, with shafts and mouldings very good inside and outside: the side windows all lancets.

Near the east end of the Nave on both sides, a low round arch in the wall with Early English imposts and labels; under each a window of unusually wide span, but with good Early English mouldings.

South door very bold and good Early English, with a peculiar moulding like broken sticks, unless parts are really broken off, which may be the case: the wooden door is modern, but the original iron hinges are preserved, and are very good. North door also good Early English.

Font, octagon, quite plain. Pulpit, carved oak, Elizabethan. Pews, modern deal, enclosed, very bad.

Clerestory—Perpendicular, square-headed two-light windows, evidently an addition to the original Church, and has a singular appearance, from the Church having no aisles.

Roof flat, plastered ceiling; the Perpendicular corbels and springers of the roof remain below the plaster ceiling.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

This parish formed part of the estate of Wigod de Walengford in the time of Edward the Confessor[p].

After the decisive battle near Hastings, the Conqueror carried his forces into Kent, and, marching back from thence, passed by London, possessed by the party of Edgar Atheling, and came to Walingford, where the lord of that town, Wigod de Walengeford, went out to meet him[q], delivered the town to him, and entertained him there, till Archbishop Stigand and many of the grandees of Edgar's faction came and offered their submission[r]. For which service and merit of the lord of that place, the victorious prince, in policy to ingratiate with the Saxons, and to reward his Normans, gave Aldith only daughter of the said Wigod in marriage to Robert de Oily, who, after her father's death, which happened nigh the same time, in right of her became possest of that great estate, wherein Burcester was, in the honor of Walingford, and Ambrosden in that honour which was after called S. Walery. From Walingford the Conqueror led his army through this part of the country with great spoil and mischief in his road to Bercamsted, at which place Prince Edgar, the Earls Edwin and Morcar, the Bishops of York, Worcester, Hereford[s], &c., waited on Duke William, and resigning up all their interest, invited him to London, and on Christmas-day he was crowned at Westminster by Aldred Archbishop of York[t].

In 1073, Robert d'Oyly gave two parts of his tithe in this parish to the Chapel of St. George, in Oxford Castle, which he had founded[u]. In 1149, the whole foundation of this Chapel was transferred by Robert d'Oiley, nephew of the preceding, to Oseney Abbey[x].

A.D. 1296. At the general taxation of ecclesiastical benefices and dignities, usually called Pope Nicholas's taxation, the Church of Bucknell was valued at £10[y] (equal to about £200 of our money). This valuation originated in a grant of the tenth of all spiritualities for six years, to King Edward I., by the Pope, when the King, being desirous of raising all the money which he possibly could by the measure, caused a

[p] Kennett, vol. i. p. 75.

[q] Gul. Pict. Gest. Ducis Norman, p. 21. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 76.

[r] Ibid., p. 285. ap. ibid.

[s] Sim. Dun. p. 193. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 77.

[t] Chron. Thos. Wilkes, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 77.

[u] Kennett, vol. i. p. 81.

[x] Ibid., vol. i. p. 141.

[y] Taxatio Ecclesiast., P. Nicholai, p. 3. ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 185.

new valuation to be instituted, which in most cases rated them much higher than before. This created a general murmur among the Clergy, and some even refused to pay the tax. Among these was the Rector of Bucknell, whose Church had sustained an increase of rate to the amount of four marks per annum. This determination being made known to the Abbot of Oseney, the collector of this district, he complained to his diocesan, the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Rector persisting in his refusal, his Church was put under an interdict. Hereupon he sued the Abbot in the Spiritual Court; the Abbot appealed to the King, and a precept was directed to the Sheriff of Oxon, requiring him forthwith to attach the body of Ikel de Kerwent, and carry him before one of the Barons of the Exchequer to answer for the contempt and damage. In this court Ikel was convicted of detaining the King's dues; and the result was, the temporals of his living were seized, and put in the hands of John de Burey, Gilbert de Buckenhull, Chaplain, and nine others, who received the profits for two years, when the Rector submitted; and an order was issued for the restitution of his property, and the removal of the interdict from his Church, Anno 1298.—*See Maynard's ed. Mem. in Scacc.*, p. 38. London 1678, and *Prynne's Histor. Collect.*, vol. iii. p. 798.

In 1348, Sir Richard de Amory sold the advowson of this Church for one hundred marks to the Rector, William de Peecks, who the following year resigned his Living, and exercised the office of patron[z].

In 1350, William de Peecks [or Peeks] the patron, obtained full licence from Richard de Stuele and Milisent, his wife, of Great Barton, county of Oxon, to give the advowson of this Church, which he held from them, to the Abbot and *Convent of Oseney*, to hold for ever; upon which he passed a fine in the King's court, and made an absolute conveyance of his right of patronage to that community[a].

After the dissolution of that society, it was conveyed by indenture to the Warden and Fellows of New College, to whom it still appertains[b].

[z] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 186. Kennett, vol. i. p. 186. vol. ii. p. 95.

[a] Par. Ant., vol. ii. p. 235. ap. Dunkin,

[b] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 182.

CHESTERTON.

PATRONAGE OF NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

Sedilia, c. 1300.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	23	6	by	16	6
Nave	40	8	by	20	9
N. Aisle	37	9	by	10	10
S. Aisle	36	9	by	9	0
Tower	13	6	by	12	0

This Church appears to have been built in the fourteenth century, but some parts of an earlier structure have been preserved, and are of about the end of the twelfth; some windows have also been inserted in the fifteenth. The Tower is a good

specimen of a simple country Church tower of the Decorated style. The Sedilia are also worthy of notice, as an elegant example of the earlier part of the fourteenth century.

Plan, oblong, with two aisles. Tower at the west end.

Chancel—East window Perpendicular, five lights with foliated heads, but no tracery, arch flat; south side, two good Decorated two-light windows, with flowing tracery.

Sedilia—Early Decorated, three cinque-foiled arches, with a square label over them, with ball-flowers. In the spandrils a trefoil, also ornamented with ball-flowers. Piscina plain, square, with a shelf.

North wall, plain, with one small plain window.

Rood-arch, Early English, with shafts, which have good caps, with stiff-leaf foliage. Rood-screen tolerable, but plastered up above. Altar-rail handsome, time of James I.

Nave—North side, three Transition Norman arches, pointed, plain, not recessed, but slightly chamfered, on round pillars, with Norman scolloped caps.

The south side, three Decorated pointed arches, larger and more lofty than those on the north side. The pillars plain, round, with cap-mouldings. South aisle, a square Decorated window at each end, two brackets, and the fragment of a Piscina at the east end. The side windows mostly square, Perpendicular, three-light; one a wide lancet, without foliation or tracery, but has a good Decorated dripstone. South door, plain Decorated. Clerestory of Nave, Decorated. Roof plain, open timber, resting on good Decorated corbels.

Font, plain round Norman.

Tower—Decorated; the ground-floor has a Decorated window of two lights, with quatrefoil in the head, two small buttresses at each angle; the second story has no windows; the Belfry a Decorated window in each face; Parapet ornamented with quatrefoils.

In the Church-yard there is a fine yew tree.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The Lincoln Register states this Church was consecrated by Bishop Grosteste (or Grosthead) in 1238[c], and dedicated to God and St. Mary[d].

In ancient times the authority of this Church extended over Great Chesterton, Little Chesterton, and Wendlebury, and consisted of two separate and distinct endowments under different patrons[e].

For some time subsequent to the Conquest, its history is the same with that of Bucknell. In 1238, at the consecration of this Church by Robert Grosthead, Sir Roger de Gunelade, Knight, gave towards its better endowment one acre of land at Fundeshulle, and an acre upon Rugge: at the same time, William, son of Fulk de Chesterton, for the soul of Denise his wife, and Agnes his daughter, gave to the said Church, for endowment, part of a meadow which belonged to his fee in Blackmore. Bardulf, son of Roger Bardulf, for the health of his own soul, and the health of the souls of his father and mother, and the souls of his ancestors, also gave three acres of arable land of his demesne lying between Wadewell and Small Weye; and for a further endowment, gave for a mansion-house for the incumbent one messuage and a croft belonging to it, which Ralph the miller held, as well as his whole meadow in demesne in Blakemore, and confirmed to the said Church the gift of his tenants of their right of common in Blakemore, which was his fee[f].

A.D. 1263, 47, 48 Henry III. This year, the Convent of Oseney, not satisfied with the bare right of patronage to the Churches of Chesterton, Weston, and others, prevailed upon Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of Lincoln, to issue a letter of appropriation[g].

Shortly after, the Abbot and Convent of Oseney appear to have con-

[c] Skelton's Oxfordshire, Ploughley Hundred, p. 3; and Kennett, vol. i. p. 312.

[d] This date does not agree with the present Church (except the Chancel-arch), but many Churches were consecrated about this time, in consequence of a general order, although some of them had been built long before, and others, as in the present instance, have been subsequently rebuilt.

[e] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 248.

[f] Reg. Osen., p. 101 and 62. No Church could be legally consecrated without such allotment of house and glebe, generally made by the lord of the manor, who thereby became patron of the Church. Other persons, at the time of dedication, often contributed small portions of ground, which is the reason why in many parishes the glebe is not only distant from the manor, but is in remote divided parcels.—Kennett, vol. i. p. 314.

[g] Regist. Osen., fol. 32. ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 251.

veyed their interest in this Church to the lord of the manor, for no more entries of their presentation occur in Hutton's Collections in the Harleian Library; but among Dodsworth's Extracts from the Lincoln Register (vol. cvii. p. 119, in Bodl. Lib. Oxon.) is a memorandum dated 16th Richard de Gravesend, stating, that in a recent trial at law William de Leslie had recovered the right of presentation to the Church of Chesterton against John le Bret, and then conveyed his full right of patronage to Edmund Earl of Cornwall.

1283. On the foundation of the College of Bonhommes, the above-mentioned Edmund Earl of Cornwall gave the advowson of this Church, with the manor, towards its endowment; and that religious community accordingly became patrons, and presented till the dissolution.

1403. This year the Convent of Asherugge procured the appropriation of the Church and the ordination of a Vicarage[h]. By this instrument, the former allowances to the Vicar were abrogated; and instead thereof the ancient Rectory-house, with its appurtenances, and four virgates of land, containing one hundred and thirty-two acres, and sixteen acres of meadow, together with other small parcels, formerly pertaining to the Rectory; the altar-offerings, small-tithe, an annual pension of 6*s*. 8*d*., due from the Church of Wendlebury (in token of subjection), and the trees and fruit growing in the Church-yard, were secured to him: but in consideration of these advantages, he was required to discharge all procurations, synodals, and other ecclesiastical dues, repair and beautify the Rectory-house and Chancel, and his next heir to pay heriot at his decease to the Rector and Convent of Asherugge, the patrons.

In 1539, the Rector and Convent of Asherugge surrendered their house, lands, and all other possessions, into the hands of the King[i], who authorized Master William Day and Richard Andrew to present Jacob Fell to the Church of Chesterton (on the death of William Ellys), June 25, A.D. 1544[k]; and in the thirty-eighth year of his reign he granted the Rectory of the same Church, with all its appurtenances, by Letters Patent, to Richard Longe and Christopher Edmonds, on condition of rendering to the King, his heirs and successors, the sum of sixteen shillings per annum, payable at Michaelmas only[l]. Soon after which it was conveyed to the Warden and Society of New College, Oxford, who are now the patrons[m].

[h] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 251, 252.

[i] Vide Willis's Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 9. ap. Dunk.

[k] Reg. Episc. Oxon. vol. i. ap. Dunk.

[l] Rot. 27, No. 244, Co. Oxon. ap. Dunk.

[m] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 253, 254.

WENDLEBURY.

St. Giles.

PATRONAGE OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

DEANERY OF BICESTER. HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

The former Church of Wendlebury, the *Tower* only of which now remains, was originally cruciform, and was doubtless an interesting structure: falling however into decay, it was taken down in March 1761, and rebuilt so as to be fit for service by the 25th of April, 1762 [n].

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The Church of Wendlebury was originally a chapel of ease to the adjoining Church of Chesterton, but after its separation and endowment paid annually 6*s*. 8*d*. in token of subjection. This sum, at the ordination of the Vicarage of Chesterton, was reserved to the Vicar, and formed a part of his revenues. The actual time of separation is unknown, though it probably took place in the twelfth century [o].

The scite of the Roman station or city of Alchester is now a part of the field belonging to this parish; the ruins are still apparent on the eastern bank of a small rivulet which crosses the Bicester turnpike road about half a mile from Wendlebury. For a full account of this Roman station and the road leading from it over Otmoor, and by Beckley over Bullington Green, and by Baldon to Dorchester, see an interesting memoir by the Rev. R. Hussey, published by the Ashmolean Society, in 1841. For a history of the Lordship of Wendlebury and lands therein, see Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 186—197.

[n] Skelton's Oxfordshire, Ploughley Hundred, p. 8.

[o] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 180.

TOWER OF MIDDLETON STONEY CHURCH, c. 1220

MIDDLETON STONEY.

PATRON.
BISHOP OF
LINCOLN.

All Saints.

DEANERY
OF BICESTER.

HUNDRED
OF PLOUGHLEY.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	33	6	by	17	3
Nave	40	0	by	20	0
North Aisle	40	0	by	9	4
South Aisle	40	0	by	8	8

A GOOD small Church, chiefly of the end of the twelfth century, in the period of transition from the Norman to the Early English styles.

NAVE—the north side has three pointed arches, recessed; outer arch square-edged, with Early English label over it; inner arch has round mouldings on the edges; pillars plain round, with Norman caps.

On the south side are two Decorated arches, recessed, chamfered edges, with labels springing from a corbel head in the centre: the western arch springing from a grotesque head, the other plain square-edged, without any particular character.

CHANCEL—east window has Decorated mouldings on the jambs, tracery cut out, and a plain upright bar substituted. The south side has two Decorated windows; on the north side there is one Norman window; on this side of the Chancel is a modern sepulchral chapel of the Jersey family.

Chancel-arch good Transition, pointed, recessed; outer arch square-edged with label over it; shaft, round, with a Norman

cap; inner arch has round mouldings on each edge, and the tooth-ornament boldly and well cut in the hollow moulding between them.

Clerestory windows Perpendicular; roof has a flat plaster ceiling, both in Nave and Chancel.

Tower, a very good specimen of Early English, with a fine Early English arcade running round it.

North door, round-headed, though having Early English mouldings and capitals, with Norman abacus, evidently Transition work. Font, modern, of marble. Windows of aisles, Perpendicular, square-headed.

South Porch, Transition Norman. Outer doorway Early English; inner doorway rich, late Norman, with varieties of the zig-zag moulding, and singular foliage in the head.

South Doorway, c. 1180.

Near the east end of the Church are the interesting traces of an ancient Castle, supposed to have been built in the reign of King Stephen by Richard Camvil on the site of a Saxon military work [p].

W.G.

[p] Skelton's Oxfordshire, Ploughley Hundred, p. 6.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The Village and Castle of Middleton in Oxfordshire, is two miles by west from Burchester. The Castle stode hard by the Churche. Sum peces of the walls of it yet a little apeare; but almoast the whole site of it is overgrowne with busshys [q].

In Doomesday book, Middleton is thus entered, as the property of William Earl of Warren, a valiant Norman nobleman, who came over with the Conqueror, and obtained one hundred and nine lordships in Norfolk, besides many others in Yorkshire, Shropshire, &c. &c. His feudatory vassal was Roger, perhaps the ancient Saxon proprietor [r].

The village was subsequently possessed by Gerard de Camvill, and at his decease passed to his son Richard, a faithful adherent of King Stephen, who is generally supposed to have built and garrisoned a stately castle on or near the scite of a military work, originally designed for the protection of the West-Saxon kingdom. The strength of the new fortress is believed to have preserved this neighbourhood from those scenes of war and desolation which afflicted almost every other corner of the kingdom during the greater part of this monarch's reign. And when at last the principal chieftains, tired of rapine, mutually agreed to settle their disputes by treaty, our Baron cheerfully signed the instrument which guaranteed the crown to Stephen during his natural life, but secured the succession to Prince Henry on his decease. That part of the engagement, however, which doomed Middleton Castle to destruction, seems to have been cautiously evaded, as it continued to be the residence of this nobleman's posterity several generations afterwards. On the accession of the new Monarch, Richard Camvil was constituted sheriff of Oxon and Berks for the first two years of his reign, and received a grant of the lordship of Sutton in the county of Northampton; but he had only enjoyed this acquisition two years when he was arrested by the hand of death, and called to give up his final account. This event happened A.D. 1157 [s]. From the well-known piety of this Baron, and the general features of the architecture of Middleton Church, there is good reason to believe that edifice was built by his directions about the same time with the Castle. He also founded Combe Abbey in Warwickshire for the Cistertians [t], gave two hides of land at Goding-

[q] Leland's Itinerary, vol. vii. fol. 9. p. 4.
[r] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 67.
[s] Par. Ant., vol. i. p. 158. ap. Dunk.
[t] Dugd. Warwick., p. 145. ap. Dunk.

ton to Missenden[u] Abbey, and the Chapel of Leigh, county of Oxon, with two virgates of land within the same parish, to the Convent of Reading, for the health and safety of himself, Milisent his wife, Robert his son, and Robert Marmion, and for all their souls, that they might partake of all the special benefits of the brethren of that house[x].

The advowson of the Church of Middleton was granted to the Abbey of Barlings, county Lincoln, by Gerard de Camvill, the lord of the village temp. Richard I., who thereby became patrons. The first Rector was Gervase de Paveby, in 1217. He was presented to the Church by the Bishop, at the petition of William Longspe and the Abbot of Barlings, between whom a dispute had arisen respecting their title to the advowson[y].

In 1334, the King, Edward III., grants licence to the Abbot and Convent of Barlings to convey the advowson of this Church to Henry, Bishop of Lincoln, and his successors; and on the 17th Kal. June the same year, on the death of the Rector, the Bishop collated Palmer Francis de Florentia[z].

In 1816 an Act of Parliament was procured to enable the Earl of Jersey to remove the parsonage-house from the immediate vicinity of his park, to some higher ground near the entrance of the town, and add the scite, as well as some adjacent land, to his demesne: this he has since effected, and thereby enclosed the parish Church and cemetery within the park.

The scite of the Rectory, lands, meadows, and closes situated on the east and west sides of the ancient road leading from Oxford to Middleton conveyed to Earl Jersey, contained seventy-two acres, three roods, fourteen poles, and were worth £106 13s. 5d. per annum: while those which the Rector received in exchange comprised one hundred and six acres, one rood, and fifteen poles, and were of the yearly value of £125 14s. 8d, besides the new Parsonage[a].

[u] Regist. de Messend., p. 129. b. ap. Dunk.

[x] Regist. Cart. Abbatiæ de Reading, c. 196. ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 108, 9.

[y] Rot. 9. Hugh Wells, ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 63.

[z] Pat. 8th Edward III. dated 4th March Reg. Burgwersh. ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 63.

[a] Private Acts, 56 George III. cap. 39. ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 57, 58.

WESTON ON THE GREEN.

PATRON.
THE EARL OF
ABINGDON.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF BICESTER.
HUNDRED
OF PLOUGHLEY.

THE former Church of Weston being dilapidated, a *Grecian structure* was in 1743 erected upon its site at the sole expense of Norreys Bertie, Esq., who died in 1766[b].

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

That a Church existed in this village a few years after the Conquest, is evident from the name of "Wakelin, priest of Weston," appearing among the witnesses to a charter of Henry de Oilley, granting four hides of land in Chesterton to the Abbey in Eynsham, temp. Henry II.; and that the advowson of the Church was also included in the grant of the manor to Oseney Abbey, A.D. 1226, is equally clear, from the Convent exercising the office of patrons from that time[c].

For some interesting particulars respecting the manor of Weston, and its connection with Oseney Abbey, see Dunkin, vol. ii. pp. 206—216.

At a short distance from the Church is the Manor House, a large building, two stories in height, erected about the latter end of the sixteenth century, but much altered by its successive owners of the Norreys and Bertie families. Of late years it has been the residence of the steward only. Many of the family pictures remain[d].

[b] Skelton's Oxfordshire, Ploughley Hundred, p. 8.

[c] Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 203.

[d] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 198.

KIRTLINGTON.

St. Mary.

PATRONAGE OF ST. JOHN'S COLL. OXFORD.

DEANERY OF BICESTER. HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

Piscina. East End of South Aisle. circa 1220

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	35	0	by	18	0
Central Tower . . .	18	6	by	18	6
Nave	48	0	by	25	0
North Aisle	48	0	by	9	0
South Aisle	66	0	by	11	6

CHANCEL—Norman, with Decorated east window. Side windows Norman, long and narrow. East window very plain, of five lights, mullions crossing in the head without foliation. Arches of Tower, east and west, early Norman, plain, square-edged, not

recessed with Norman impost. North arch also Norman, filled up. South arch, Decorated. Groined Norman ceiling, with open circle in centre.

Tower itself destroyed, bells stand on the floor.

Nave—has three Early English arches on each side, pointed, recessed, chamfered, with good labels; capitals on south side have stiff-leaf foliage; north side have plain cap-mouldings. Clerestory and roof Perpendicular. Side windows, square, plain. At the east end of the south aisle a small good Early English Piscina, with foliage under. South door, plain Decorated. West door and window, plain Decorated. South porch, Perpendicular.

On the north side a sash window. At the east end corbie steps ornamented with pinnacles at the angles.

At the east end of the south aisle is the burial-place of the Dashwood family.

Pews and seats all high, modern, and bad. Galleries erected by Sir Robert Dashwood in 1726, very bad. Pulpit probably of the same age.

This Church is very much spoiled on the outside by rough-cast, and inside by the galleries and pews.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In 977 a great Synod or Council was held at Kirtlington in this county (Oxon), which had been a place of great eminence and antiquity, a frontier town between the kingdoms of Mercia and the West Saxons, and of great resort from the port-way that led through it, and had a very ancient Church dedicated to St. Mary[e]. There has been much doubt and controversy about the name and situation of this place of council[f].

Bishop Kennett thus sums up the reasons for believing this to have

[e] Mon. Ang., tom. ii. p. 1007.

[f] Kennett, vol. i. p. 58, 59.

been the place. "In short, from the continual preserved name[g], from the commodious situation, from all circumstances thereto agreeing, I think it most certain that this mycle ȝemoт, this great Synod, was held at Kirtlington, within three miles of Burcester[h]."

At the Norman conquest this village fell to the lot of William, Earl of Warren[i].

A. D. 1201, 2 and 3 K. John. Gilbert Basset, lord of Burchester, nigh this time provided that his body should be buried in the Priory of Burcester of his own foundation; and to that end gave to those Monks all the land which he had bought of Baldwin de Munz in the village of Kirtlington, as also two mills in Kirtlington, paying yearly to the Monks of Aulney in Normandy eleven shillings, and to the heirs of Ingeram two shillings, for all service[k].

An. 1271. Philip Basset died possessed of the manors of Kertlington, Chefield, and Hunington, County of Oxford[l], which, with the manors of Haselee, Ascote, and Peryton, passed to Roger de Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and Mareschal of England, who had married Aliva, the sole daughter and heir of the said Philip Basset[m].

[g] "In the Saxon Chronicle it is called Kỳnтlingтune, which the expert editor (Gibson. locorum explicatio) grants to be a mistake for Kỳpтlingтune, as Spelman does record it. (Concil. Brit. tom. i. p. 493.)"—Kennett, vol. i. p. 59.

[h] Kennett, vol. i. p. 60.

[i] Ibid., vol. i. p. 76.

[k] Ibid., vol. i. p. 225.

[l] Dugd. Bar., tom. i. p. 385.

[m] R. Dods. MS., vol. lxxxii. f. 10. b.; ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 387.

BLECHINGDON.

PATRONAGE OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Giles.

DEANERY OF BICESTER. HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

Spire Turret on the Tower, circa 1500

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	29	0	by	17	6
Nave	52	6	by	22	0

CHANCEL—late and bad. Communion-table has the slab detached.

South door, good Perpendicular, dripstone has particularly good returns. Interior, quite plain, plaster ceilings. Open seats, with poppies and scroll-work of the time of James I.

Pulpit good old oak, James I. Font, very small plain octagon. A square gallery-pew, battlemented.

Porch—tolerably good of its kind, 1695.

Tower—Perpendicular, with a square turret, surmounted by a pyramid, rising from the middle of the west side of the tower, and serving as a small spire: west door, Perpendicular.

W.G.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the parish of Blechingdon is dug a sort of grey marble used for chimney-pieces, pavements, &c. The pillars of the porticoes of St. John's College, Oxford, are built with it; also chimney-pieces at Blechingdon Park, at Cornbury Park, and other houses in the neighbourhood[n].

The early history of this parish being nearly identical with that of Ambrosden, Bucknell, &c., it is not necessary to repeat it here.

A.D. 1339, 13 and 14 of Edward III.—An inquisition was taken in these parts on the death of Joan, widow of Thomas de Musegrave of Blechesdon, wherein it appears that the said Joan held the moiety of one messuage and one caracute of land in Blechesdon of the King, by the service of carrying one shield of brawn, price twopence halfpenny, to the King whenever he should hunt in his park of Cornbury; it being understood that one shield of brawn so carried to the King on his first day of hunting, should suffice during the whole of his stay at his manor of Wodestocke[o].

[n] Magna Britannia, p. 401.

[o] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 73, 74.

HAMPTON POYLE.

PATRONAGE OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

The Virgin Mary.

DEANERY OF BICESTER. HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

East Window, circa 1270.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	20	0	by	12	0
Nave	31	10	by	17	0
Aisles	31	10	by	9	6

A SMALL oblong Church, with aisles to Nave, and bell-turret at the west end.

CHANCEL—East window, remarkably good Early English, very late in the style, and transition to Decorated; of three lights with

three circles in the head, filled up with tracery in a sort of star form, leaving trefoils in each opening. The mullions have shafts on the edge inside, with Early English caps; one has the tooth-ornament, another is sculptured foliage, the dripstone terminated by masks.

A plain bracket on the north side, with Decorated mouldings on face; on the south side, one quite plain.

South door of Chancel, small plain Decorated, with dripstone and corbel heads. Windows on this side blocked up.

On the north side, a Perpendicular tall square-headed window, has the symbols of the four Evangelists in stained glass.

Chancel-arch, Decorated, pointed, recessed, chamfered.

Nave—West window, Decorated two-light, with flowing tracery—very good. On the north side, two pointed arches, recessed, chamfered; pillar, plain octagon, with the capital ornamented with half-length figures, the heads of which have close round helmets; abacus, the roll-moulding.

South side, two Decorated arches, pointed, recessed, chamfered, divided by a flat pier, the imposts consisting of a plain bold roll-moulding.

North Aisle—East window, transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, dripstone Perpendicular, but corbel heads more like Decorated. North windows square-headed, tracery good transition from Decorated to Perpendicular; one has a Decorated dripstone, the other a Perpendicular. In this aisle a fine Perpendicular sepulchral recess, with ogee canopy, crockets, and finials, and panelling over it, under a square label: a curious little Decorated Piscina, in the form of a hand supporting a small basin.

Font, plain round, with octagon base.

South Aisle—East window has a Decorated dripstone, three lights, mullions crossing in the head very clumsy. The south window and door modern. In this aisle lie two fine monumental effigies, separated from their tombs, of a knight in plate armour, cross-legged, and his lady; also a brass of John Poyle, Oct. 21st, 1434, and Elizabeth his wife.

The Roofs, both of nave and aisles, are Perpendicular, good open timber work.

Pews, modern, high and bad; but old open seats, with carved ends of a great variety of patterns, remain under them, being built upon; these might easily be restored.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

For a long account of this Church, see "Gentleman's Magazine," 1806, p. 524.

In the 51st and 52nd of Henry III., 1267, Stephen de Hampton held half a knight's fee in Burcester, who died this year, and left Alice, his daughter and heir, fifteen years of age, married to Walter de la Poyle, which family gave name to Hampton Poyle[p].

In the year 1420, Robert Jordan, priest, was presented by John de la Poyle to the Church of Hampton Poyle, void by the death of R. Thorpe, the last Rector. In 1466, Ric. Colyns, A.M., was presented by Sir Edmund Rede, Knight, and Catherine his wife, lady of Hampton Poyle, to this Church, void by the death of Rob. Jordan[q].

[p] R. Dods. MS., vol. xl. p. 107. [q] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 242. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 376.

circa 1350.

HAMPTON GAY.

The present Church is modern, and a very bad specimen of the meeting-house style, which prevailed in the early part of the present century.

Near this Church is a good Elizabethan house, of the usual ground plan, two gables, and a recess, with a porch projecting in the centre: some handsome chimney-pieces remain, and several of the rooms appear to be nearly in their original state, though much dilapidated. It is at present only partially occupied by the superintendant of the adjoining paper-mill, belonging to C. Venables, Esq.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The Church of Chesterton, with those of Weston and Hampton Gay, &c., had been appropriated to the Abbey of Oseney, by Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1263. The said Church of Hampton Gay had been appropriated by the patron, Robert Gait, in the time of Hugh, the second Bishop of Lincoln, by letters of request to the said Diocesan[r].

1140. 5th and 6th King Stephen.—Nigh this time Sir Robert de Gait gave to the Abbey of Oseney his Church of Hampton Gay by charter, to which were witnesses Henry de Oily and Robert his brother. He married Maud de Povre, and afterward, by consent of the said Maud his wife, and of Philip and Robert his sons, he confirmed the Church, and gave the manor of Hampton to the said Monks of Oseney; who in consideration thereof, gave ten marks of silver to the said Robert, one bezantine to his wife, and a horse to his son Philip, who confirmed his father's donation in the 3rd of Henry III.[s]

A.D. 1138.—Sir Robert Gait, Knight, lord of the manor of Hampton, thence called Hampton Gait, now Hampton Gay, possessed a fourth part of the village of Ottendun; and going to Gilbert, Abbot of Waverlie, he desired and obtained leave to build an Abbey of the Cistertian Order in the said village of Ottendun, which accordingly he raised at his own charge, and endowed it with five virgates of lands, which made the fourth part of a Knight's fee, and called it from the name of an adjoining wood, Ottelei[t].

[r] Kennett, vol. i. p. 579.

[s] Ibid., vol. i. p. 132.

[t] R. Dods. MS., vol. cxliii. f. 41. et Mon. Ang., tom. ii. p. 802; ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 126, 127.

VIEW OF THE CHURCH FROM THE S.E

KIDLINGTON.

PATRONAGE OF EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Mary.

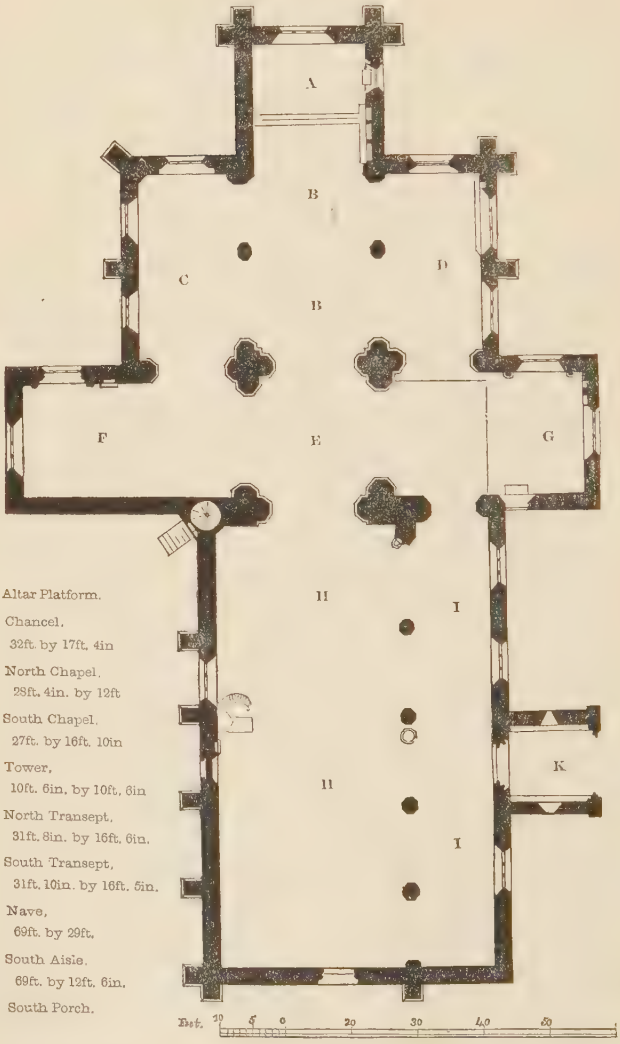
DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK. HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

This Church is a large and fine structure, with a lofty and taper spire: the general style is Decorated, very good, with parts Early English, the clerestory and some windows Perpendicular: the ground-plan is a Latin cross, with an aisle on the south side of the nave, and chapels north and south of the Chancel, not extending the whole length of it: the tower and spire rise from the crossing.

The Chancel is Decorated, of three bays: the eastern bay has a good Decorated window of two lights on the south side, with a piscina under it, and three sedilia; these are under a square head, the recesses shallow, with pointed arches, cinquefoiled, and the mullions chamfered; they are plain Perpendicular work. The east window is Perpendicular, inserted in the arch of a Decorated one, the dripstone of which remains on the outside, consisting of the roll-moulding, terminated by heads: this window is filled with stained glass, collected from various parts of the Church, and unskilfully put together; some pieces are good

East End of South Chapel. c. 1320.

THE GROUND PLAN.



A. Altar Platform.

B. Chancel,
32ft. by 17ft. 4in

C North Chapel,
28ft. 4in. by 12ft

D. South Chapel,
27ft. by 16ft. 10in

E Tower,
10ft. 6in. by 10ft. 6in

F. North Transept,
31ft. 8in. by 16ft. 6in.

G South Transept,
31ft. 10in. by 16ft. 5in.

H. Nave,
69ft. by 29ft.

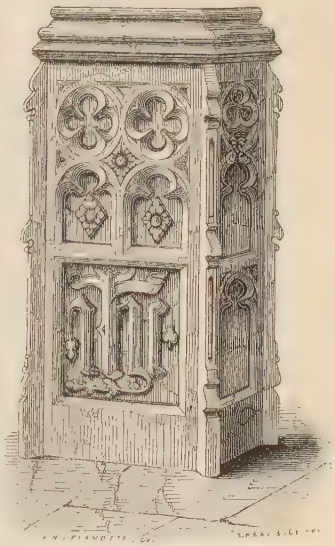
I. South Aisle,
69ft. by 12ft. 6in.

K. South Porch.

Height of West End of Nave, externally	- - -	39ft.	9in.
,, Tower - - - - -	- - -	26	4
,, Spire, with Weathercock -	- - - -	107	6
Total height of Spire		173	7

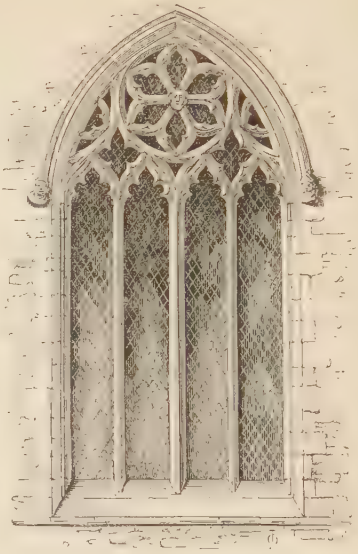
Early English, and some Decorated; the south window is also filled with stained glass, but mostly modern shields of arms. The masonry of this eastern bay is worthy of notice; it consists of small square stones, with layers of long thin stones, as of tiles, between them. The two western bays of the Chancel have Decorated arches on each side; these are plain, pointed, and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, dying into the piers, without any imposts; they have Decorated labels: the piers are octagon, quite plain, without caps or imposts; in the splay of the south-east respond there is a Decorated piscina, with an ogee head trefoiled, a narrow stone shelf and basin. The Chancel is enclosed with good Perpendicular screens, some of the tracery in which is in Decorated forms, but the cornice and mouldings are Perpendicular: there are some Perpendicular stalls, with carved finials, and with desks in front of them, made out of good bench-ends of the same style, richly panelled with a variety of emblematical designs, the "Pelican," the "I.H.C.," &c., and good buttressets, some placed diagonally, others not so; and some encaustic tiles in the pavement, of various patterns. The Chancel has a high-pitched roof, but this is concealed by a flat boarded ceiling, cutting off the head of the east window.

Poppie in the Chancel. c. 1500

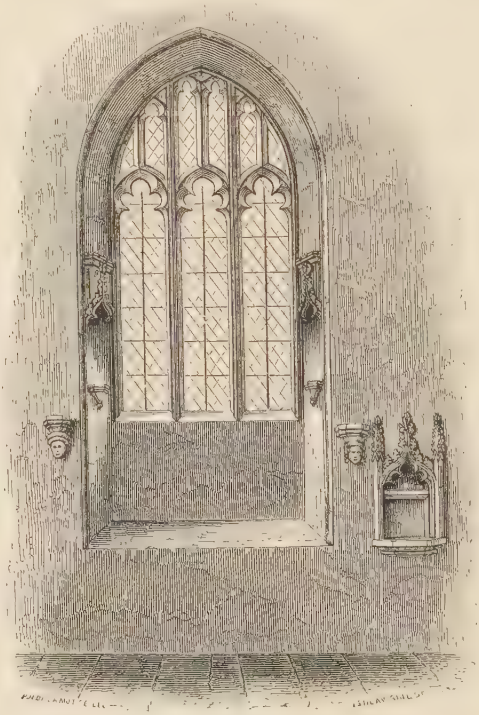


Pew in the Chancel, removed from the Nave c. 1500.

North Door of the Nave, called Bachelor's Door, c. 1220.

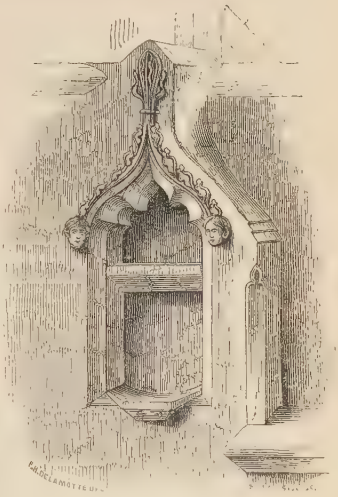


East Window of South Chapel, c. 1320.



East Window, &c. in the North Transept, c. 1450.

On each side of the Chancel are good Decorated aisles, of two bays, the eastern part of which is enclosed by a screen, forming a parclose, or chantry chapel. The south aisle has at the east end a fine Decorated window of four lights, of geometrical tracery; the labels are the roll-moulding, terminated on the outside by half-length figures, one of them with a mitre on; in the inside they are whole-length figures, one a female, with a chin-cloth, the other a man with the hair and costume of the time of Edward II. The south windows are of three lights, with flowing tracery and Decorated mouldings; under the south-east window is a Decorated piscina, standing out a little from the wall, with an ogee head cinque-foiled, and a crocketed canopy,

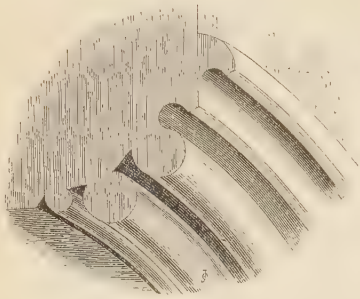


Piscina in South Chapel, c. 1320.

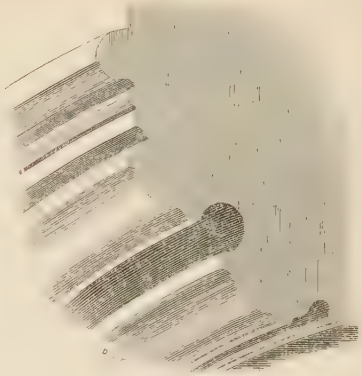
and in the sill of the window a stone bench, evidently for the purpose of sedilia; the Altar itself, under the east window, has been destroyed. The roof is high-pitched and open, but rough, and appears unfinished, the tie-beams and wall-plates only being moulded. This aisle and some other parts of the Church correspond exactly with the south aisles of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aldate's, in Oxford.

The north aisle of the Chancel is very similar to the south, but the east window has flowing tracery instead of geometrical, and it has a Perpendicular boarded ceiling, nearly flat; the rafters and principals moulded, resting on good carved corbels; it has also a Perpendicular battlement and cornice. The arches from these aisles into the transepts are similar to those on the sides of the Chancel.

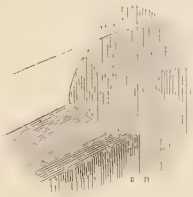
The tower-arches are Early English, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, resting on very massive piers; the capitals, or rather imposts, are boldly moulded; the label is



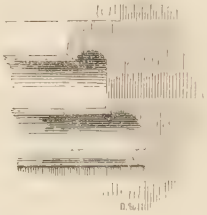
Mouldings of the North Door, c 1220.



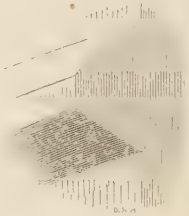
Mouldings of the South Door. c. 1330



Label of Arches in Nave, c. 1320.

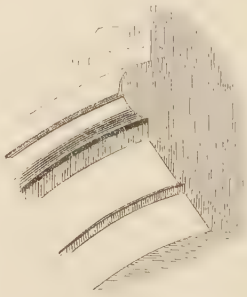


Impost. Mouldings of the Tower Arches, c. 1220.



Label of Tower Arch. c. 1220

Mouldings of the Outer Door of the Porch, c. 1320.



Label and Jamb of the East Window of South Chapel c. 1330

simple, but of Early English character. The first floor of the tower is Early English, with thick walls, and in each face a lancet window with a trefoil head. The belfry has a Perpendicular window in each face, and squinches across the angles. The spire is Perpendicular, octagonal, remarkably taper, with a round bead on the angles, and a finial; the spire lights are plain, with trefoil heads; there is a Perpendicular open parapet round its base which very much injures the effect. The tower contains six bells, the five larger ones re-cast in 1715, the smaller one added in 1800.

Crocket on Piscina in North Transept, c. 1450.

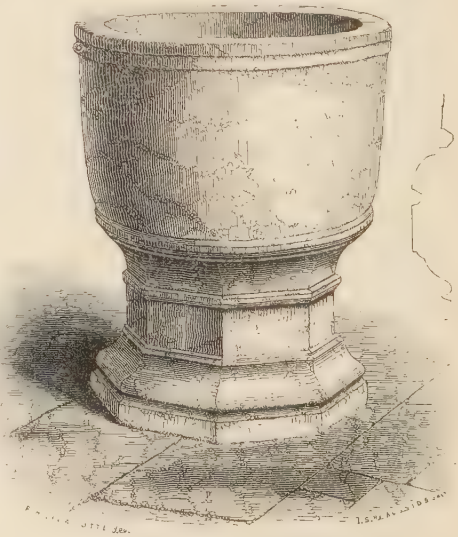
The north transept has two lancet windows on the west side, and an Early English string along the west and north wall under the windows; the north and east windows are Perpendicular, of three lights. The east window has good niches in the jambs, and on each side brackets, supported by heads; on the south side an elegant piscina, with ogee head cinquefoiled, crocketed canopy and pinnacles; the crockets on this canopy are very good specimens of the style. The clerestory is Perpendicular, with small square-headed windows, of two lights. The roof good Perpendicular open timber, with tie-beams and king-posts, and springers supporting the tie-beams at each end, with foliated openings; these and the rafters are all moulded, resting on plain stone corbels.

The south transept has Perpendicular windows of three lights; under the east window has been an Altar, of which the brackets remain; and in the north wall is a Decorated piscina, with an ogee head and crocketed canopy; by the side of this is a Decorated recess for a sedile; on the west side of this transept is a small Perpendicular door, with a stone penthouse over it.

The nave is lofty, with a Perpendicular clerestory and roof; on the north side the wall is Early English, with tall buttresses in three stages, a good Early English door, with a trefoil head,

under a pointed arch, now blocked up, but still called the Bachelor's door, a Decorated window, of three lights, with flowing tracery, and a good Perpendicular niche. The clerestory is evidently an addition, and the corbels of the old roof remain below it: the present roof is Perpendicular, of low pitch, with boarded ceiling; the principals and rafters well moulded, and the corbels good Perpendicular; the springers are open, with Perpendicular panelling. The west door and window are late Perpendicular, but there are remains of two Early English windows in the west wall. On the south side of the nave are five Decorated arches, of unequal height and span, becoming gradually lower and narrower as they approach the west end; this appears to have been done for the perspective effect: the arches are plain, dying into octagonal piers, without any imposts; the label is equally simple, but different from that of the tower-arches, and is Decorated; there is a plain piscina in the splay of the east respond. The font is plain round Decorated, on a moulded base, lately restored to its original position under the arch nearest to the south door; the pulpit, Elizabethan carved oak.

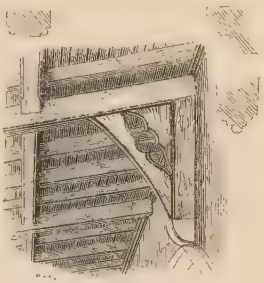
Niche in the Nave, c. 1450.



The Font, c. 1320.

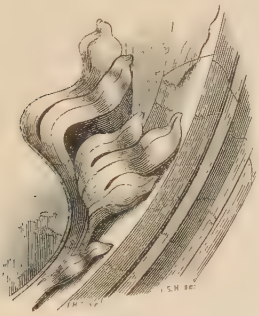
The south aisle of the nave has three good Decorated windows, with

flowing tracery; the roof is a lean-to, nearly flat, with springers, having foliated openings through them; these appear, by the mouldings, to be of the fourteenth century. The south door is Decorated, with bold mouldings.



The Roof.

The south Porch is also Decorated, with stone benches, and a plain open timber roof: the outer door is Decorated, richly moulded with the ball-flower ornament; over this door there is a good Decorated niche, with a rich crocketed canopy, pinnacles, and finials. The crockets are good specimens of the form generally used in this style. I.H.P.



Crocket on the Porch.

The South Porch, c 1320.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

At the Conquest the manor of *Kidlington*, in Domesday Book written *Chedelinton*, formed part of the grant to Robert de Oily, a follower of the Conqueror[a]. He was appointed to keep Oxford, and built a castle there, within which he erected a chapel, dedicated to St. George, and established there a fraternity of secular priests, whom he endowed with several rights and possessions in those parts. He gave them the churches of *Cudelinton* (*Kidlington*), Weston[b], &c. This grant conveyed the appropriation of two parts in three of the tithes, together with the advowson or right of patronage to this body.

Robert de Oily died A.D. 1090, and was buried at Abingdon, on the north side of the high Altar. As he left no heirs male of his own body, his brother Nigel succeeded to the Castle of Oxford and the *honor* of d'Oily, which included the manor of *Kidlington*, and of which the capital seat was Hook-Norton[c].

Nigel dying about A.D. 1120, was succeeded by his son Robert de Oily, jun.[d], who at the solicitation of his wife Edith founded Oseney A.D. 1129, for a priory of Canons Augustines, and twenty years after its foundation transferred thither the church and college of St. George in the castle, with all its endowments, including the advowson and appropriation of two parts in three of the tithes of *Cudelinton*[e]. Thus the church of *Kidlington* became annexed to Oseney, A.D. 1149. Robert de Oily the younger died, A.D. 1157, and was succeeded by his son and heir Henry, who was sheriff of Oxford from the third to the sixth year of Henry II. A few years later in this reign, upon an inquisition with a view to the scutage or tax, he is returned as holding 32 knights' fees, and an half of the old feoffment, and one fee and a half part of a fee of the new feoffment. Among these possessions Kidlington must have been included, as appears from a grant which he made to Oseney A.D. 1192, of certain property in Weston, with offer of exchange in the manors of Hook-Norton or of *Kidlington*, in consideration that his body was to be buried

[a] Domesday B. *Oxenscire* Terra de Oilgi.

[b] Dugd. Monast., tom. ii. p. 136.—Leland's Itin., vol. ii. f. 17.

[c] Kennett, vol. i. pp. 97, 98.

[d] Regist. Oseney, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 119.

[e] Carta Rob. de Oilii, jun., Dugd. Monast., tom. ii. p. 137.

before the high Altar in Oseney[f]. He dying was succeeded by his son Henry, the second of that name, who confirmed the grant of his ancestors to Oseney; and among other grants of his own, which he added, is mentioned "purprestura gardini sui (i. e. canonicorum) de *Kidelinton*[g]." On his death, A.D. 1232, he also was interred in the church of Oseney, for which he stipulated in his charter of confirmation. He left two sisters heirs, of which Margery, the elder, was the wife of Henry Earl of Warwick, who had issue by her Thomas Earl of Warwick, who in the 17th of Henry III. paid £100 and two palfreys for the relief of his uncle, Henry de Oily's, (the second) lands, including the manor of *Kidlington*[h]. From Thomas Earl of Warwick, *Kidlington* passed by marriage into the family of de Plessets, the founder of which, John de Plessets, a Norman by birth, and domestic servant in the king's court, raised himself by marriage with Christian, daughter and heir of Hugh de Sandford, and became sheriff of the county of Oxford, A.D. 1240[i].

He was in great favour with Henry III., and by the king's earnest intercession obtained in marriage (on the death of his first wife) Margery, the widow of John Mareschal, sister and heir of Thomas Earl of Warwick, whose mother was Margery, eldest daughter and heir of Henry de Oily, the elder, Baron of Hook-Norton; by which means he came into possession of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*, held from the king by barony, and afterwards had the title of Earl of Warwick[k]. He was also made constable of the Tower of London, and had many other honours conferred on him. He was buried in the choir of Missenden Abbey[l]. On his death, Feb. 26, 1263, he was succeeded by Hugh de Plessets, son by his first wife, who in April next ensuing, doing his homage, had livery of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*, paying for his relief £100. He married Isabel, daughter of J. de Ripariis[m], cousin and one of the heirs to Philippa Basset, sometime Countess of Warwick. By a demise of land in Mussewell to Sir Richard le Pouvre, dated *Cudelinton*, Saturday after Epiphany, the 7th of Edward I., it appears that Sir Hugh de Plessets resided at the manor house of *Kidlington*[n]; to which a chapel was attached by the permission of the Abbot and Convent of Oseney, who in the compact made on this

[f] Regist. Osen. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 208, 209.

[g] Carta Hen. de Oilii, Dugd. Mon., tom. ii. p. 139.

[h] Dugd. Bar., tom. i. p. 461.

[i] Dugd. Bar., p. 772.

[k] Dugd. Bar., Kennett, i. pp. 327, 367.

[l] Kennett, vol. i. p. 367.

[m] Dugd. Bar. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 367.

[n] Kennett, vol. i. p. 414.

account with the said Hugh Baron of Hooknorton, stipulated that the capellane should not pretend to any parochial dues or jurisdiction, but all should be adjusted sine præjudicio matricis ecclesiæ[o]. He served in the first expedition of Edward into Scotland[p]. He died A.D. 1292, and was succeeded by his son and heir Hugh, then twenty-five years of age, who on doing his homage had livery of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*[q].

This Hugh de Plessets appears in the roll of the summons to Parliament among the Barons of the realm in the 25th of Edward I., and in the following year served in the expedition into Scotland. He died A.D. 1301[r]. The manor of *Kidlington* was settled by Hugh de Plessets before his death on his son Thomas[s], and it continued in the same family at least till the middle of that century. In the inquisitiones post mortem, there occurs mention of two Hugh de Plessets after this, the former of whom died A.D. 1338[t], possessed of *Kidlington*; the latter A.D. 1350[u], who at the time of his death, besides *Kidlington* and Water Eton, held 22 other manors.

From this Hugh de Plessey it passed probably in the female line to John Lenneysey, who in the inquisition held after his death, A.D. 1361, is returned as having died possessed jointly with Eleanor his wife of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*[x]. He was succeeded by his son Sir John, who died A.D. 1380, also possessed jointly with Elizabeth his wife of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*[y].

The next owner of the manor of *Kidlington* that has been discovered is Thomas Chaucer, supposed to be a son of the great poet, in whose

[o] Regist. Osen. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 281.

[p] Like other powerful barons of the time, he exercised nearly an absolute sovereignty within his domain, as appears from the following extracts from the Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. p. 873:—"Hugh de Pleci holds of the king in capite the manor and village of Cudelington of the fee of Doyly, for military service, and has view of Frankpledge over his own men, without the sheriff and other bayliffs of the crown, and has *gallows* on his land, by what warrant we know not," &c. Then follows a list of the villanes, 41 in number, holding a half virgate* or virgate of land, the rent for which is uniformly at the rate of 5s. a virgate, but then they were bound to certain feudal services.

[q] Inquisit. post mortem, vol. i. p. 113.—Rot. Hundred, ii. 46.—Kennett, vol. i. p. 450.—Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 773.

[r] Dugd. Summons to Parliament, Barony, Inquisit. post mortem, i. 169.

[s] Kennett, vol. i. p. 502.

[t] Inquisit. post mortem, vol. ii. p. 78.

[u] Ibid. 1 pars Edw. II.

[x] Inq. post mort. 34 Edw. III.

[y] Ibid. 3 Rich. II.

* A yard land, an uncertain quantity, varying from 15 to 40 acres, according to custom.

possession it appears to have been by an inquisition held at the time of his death, A.D. 1436[z]. From him it passed to William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, by his marriage with Alice, daughter and heir of the said Thomas Chaucer. He was afterwards created Duke of Suffolk, and acted a very conspicuous part in the reign of Henry VI. He was the founder of the Hospital of Ewelme, where he sometime resided. He was afterwards attainted, and being intercepted in his passage into France, he was beheaded. His remains were conveyed to the Collegiate Church of Wingfield in Suffolk, and there buried. Alice his widow was buried at Ewelme, on the south side of the high Altar. There is an engraving of her monument, which is very splendid, in Skelton's Oxfordshire, as well as of that of her father, Thomas Chaucer[a].

By an inquisition after the death of the Duke of Suffolk, he was found to have died possessed in Com: Oxon: jointly with Alice his wife, of twelve messuages, fourteen virgates of land, and twenty acres of meadow, with their appurtenances in Thorp, *Cudelinton* and Sulthorne, now Thrup, *Kidlington* and Souldern[b]. All which, with many other large possessions, continued to Alice his widow, in her own right of inheritance, who lived to a good old age in her mansion-house at Ewelm, and died there, A.D. 1475[c].

She had issue by her last husband, the Duke of Suffolk, one son and heir, John, who married Elizabeth, sister to King Edward IV., and for this honourable alliance was, by letters patent, dated March 23, 3rd of Edward IV., restored to the title of Duke of Suffolk[d]. He inherited, among other possessions from his mother, the manor of *Kidlington*, which must have continued in his family to the Reformation, as certain manorial payments to the Duke of Suffolk and his heirs, are stated among the perpetual reprises to which the Rectory of *Kidlington* was liable, at the time of the surrender of Oseney[e].

In the last century it belonged for some time to a family of the name of Smith, of whom was Dr. Joseph Smith, Provost of Queen's, A.D. 1730. It is now the property of the Duke of Marlborough; but the manor-house was detached from the manor some few years since, and belongs to Thomas Robinson, Esq.

The Church is named in honour of the Virgin Mary, and the feast-day of dedication is the Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. O.S.

[z] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 322.
[a] Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189.
[b] Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189.
[c] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 380.
[d] Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189; Kennett, vol. ii. p. 380.
[e] Valor. Eccl.

The following few scattered notices respecting the Church are subjoined. The presentations are chiefly taken from the Registry at Lincoln.

A.D. 1226. The Abbey of Osney presented in this year to the Vicarage.

A.D. 1300—1320. *Bishop D' Alderby.* Johannes de Ottington Capellanus ad Vicariam per Abbatem et Conventum de Osney præsentatus per mortem Guli. ultimi vicarii vacantem.

A.D. 1347—1363. *Bishop Grindwell.* Wilhelmus de Ottingdon per Abbatem et Conventum de Osney ad vicariam præsentatus per mortem Henrici Wylby vacantem.

During this century a considerable portion of the Church was rebuilt, probably through the influence of Thomas de Cudlinton, a native of *Kidlinton*, who died Abbot of Osney, A.D. 1383[f], and was distinguished as a builder. He built Hythe-bridge, and the Lady Chapel at Osneye. The south aisle of the Church very closely resembles that of St. Mary Magdalene, which was built A.D. 1338[g].

A.D. 1405—1420. *Bishop Repingdon.* Magr. Johans. Welkes per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad vicariam de *Cudlington*, præsentatus per mortem Willihelmi Odyngton ultimi vicarii vacantem.

A.D. 1431—1435. *Bishop Grey.* Willhelmus Bushell per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad vicariam præsentatus per resignationem Johans. Welkes vacantem.

A.D. 1435—1450. *Bishop Alnwick.* Johannes Bradstone, per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad Vicariam de Osneye præsentatus per resignationem Willhelmi Bushell vacantem.

Item—Ludovicus North ad vicariam per Abbatem et conventum de Osneye præsentatus per Johannis Bradstone resignationem vacantem.

During the incumbency of this last-mentioned vicar, a new endowment of the vicarage was made by the Bishop. The parishioners complained that the parish, which is very long, wide, dispersed, and large, was not duly served, and the vicar, that the portions of the said vicarage were so scanty, that they were insufficient for the proper sustentation of him, and the support of the charges imposed upon him. Whereupon the Bishop, having heard the various parties by their proctors, totally annuls the existing endowment, and ordains a new and more sufficient one, assigning to the vicar the present vicarage house, and certain

[f] Leland's Itin. [g] Peshall, p. 224.

portions of the abbey land, tithes, offerings, &c., and binding the vicar to serve and minister continually to the said church by himself and one fit chaplain, who, at his own cost and charge he shall have continually dwelling with him.

A.D. 1471—1480. *Bishop Rotherham.* Johannes Lane, presbyter, præsentatus per discretum virum Leonellum Wydeville Archidiac. Oxon. ad vicariam perpetuam Ecclesiæ parochialis de *Cudlington* Linc. Dioces. per resignationem Mag^{i} Ludovici North ultimi vicarii in manus Reverendi Patris Linc. Ep. vacantem.

A.D. 1495—1514. *Bishop Smith.* Mag^{r}. Rogerus Sandeford, in utroque jure baccalaureus presbyter præsentatus per religiosos viros Abbatem et conventum monasterii de Osneye per mortem Johannis Lane ultimi vicarii quam per liberam renunciationem Magr. Ricardi Inglesent, vacantem, 21mi April, 1499.

Item—Mag^{r}. Johan. Croston A.M. præsent: per Abb. et Conven. ad vicariam de *Cudelynton* per resign. Xtopheri Lathum 22 Sep. 1503.

The surrender of Osney bears date Nov. 17, A.D. 1540, and on the erection of the see of Oxford in the year following, the appropriation of *Kidlington* became part of the endowment of the new chapter at Osney, consisting of a Dean and six Canons, styled the Dean and Canons of the Cathedral Church of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin; but within three years this foundation was dissolved, and a new one erected at St. Frideswide's, as it now exists, under the style of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford.

Kidlington then, with many other of the possessions of Osney, remained in the hands of the Crown. In A.D. 1565, it was granted by Q. Eliz. to Sir W. Petre, and by him given to Exeter College. By his ordination, confirmed afterwards by Act of Parliament, the vicarage was permanently attached to the headship of Exeter College, and the Rectors of the College from that time have been the successive vicars of the parish [h].

"At Gosford, in the parish of *Kidlington*, there was an house of Sisters of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, who were removed about A.D. 1180 to Buckland, in Somersetshire. The estate was given to them by Robert de Oily and Henry his son, and continued in the hands of the Hospitalers (who built an oratory or chapel here about A.D. 1234)

[h] Tanner's Notitia, Q. Elizabeth's grant to Exeter College in the Archives of the College.

till the dissolution. It was granted 34th Henry VIII. to Anth. Stringer and John Williams[i]."

"Close to the Church at *Kidlington*, in the County of Oxford, is a small hospital or alms-house, containing six rooms. Upon a tablet at the north end, is the following inscription:—

"TO GOD, AND THE POOR OF KIDLINGTON, AND TO THE PIOUS MEMORY OF THE VIRTUOUS LADY, ANN MORTON, AND HER DECEASED CHILDREN, SIR WILLIAM MORTON, KNIGHT, LATE ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DEDICATED THIS FOUNDATION, ANNO DOMINI 1671."

Extract from the Founder's will:—

"Whereas I have built and erected an hospital at *Kidlington*, in the County of Oxford, for the habitation, and maintenance, of three poor men, and three poor women, that are impotent and decrepid, who are to be single persons, and whose labour and work is done. And in remembrance of the piety and virtues of my dearly beloved wife, and my dear and dutiful children, John Morton, George, William, Ann, and Magdalen Morton, deceased, which I had by her, I will, and appoint, that the said building, or Alms-house, shall be called, and knowne, by the name of 'the Lady Anne Morton's Alms-house' for ever. And that the poor people, that shall be placed, and put in, by me in my lifetime, and for ever hereafter, shall be called the Lady Ann Morton's Almsfolke, and shall be stiled, and incorporated, by that name[k]." J.L.R.

[i] Tanner's Notit. Monast.

[k] See Mr. Markland's Remarks on Sepulchral Memorials, p. 225.

WATER-EATON CHAPEL.

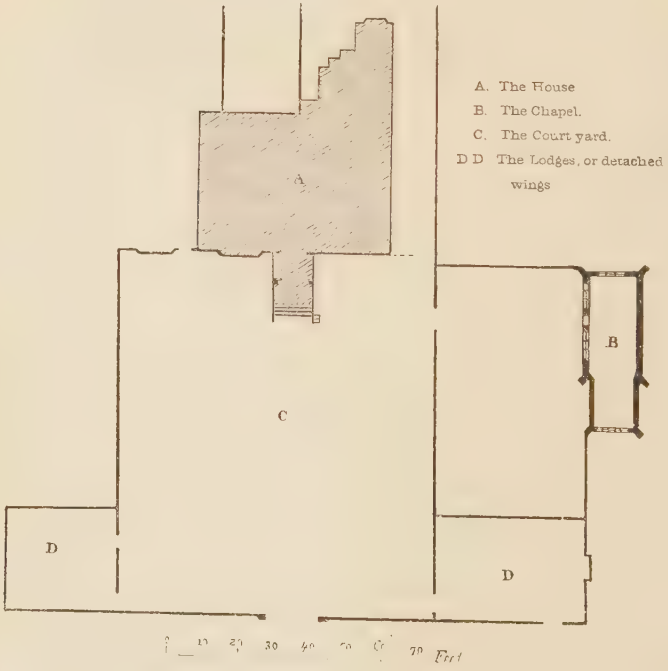
	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	29	0	by	20	0
Chancel	16	9	by	15	10

This is a remarkably good specimen of the revived Gothic, of the time of James I., having at first sight the appearance of a much earlier date; it is a simple oblong Chapel, with a high-pitched roof, open to the rafters, and of good plain character, without tie-beams.

The windows are wide, of three lights, with foliated heads, but without tracery, very much resembling a window often found in Decorated work, but the mouldings are quite late Perpendicular; the window arches are very much depressed, with a slight point; the door is late Perpendicular, with a square head over it: the north wall is quite blank; on the south side there are three windows and a door, and one window at each end. The pulpit and screen are of good Elizabethan work, and the pews are all open, with poppy-heads of the same character. The bell-gable is a modern imitation, and not a very happy one.

The house adjoining, and to which this Chapel belongs, is of the same age and character; a remarkably good and perfect specimen of the Elizabethan style, with its court-yard, entrance-gate, detached wings and chapel, all in their original state, and all apparently built at once from the same design.

Water-Eaton House, from the Court-Yard, c. 1610.



HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Eton, by which is to be understood *Water Eton*, is mentioned in Domesday Book[l] as part of the possessions of Robert de Oily. It was given to Oseney by Robert de Oily the second, the founder. There is also extant a MS. in English in the Exchequer, supposed to be about the time of Edward IV., which contains a further confirmation of this grant by Henry de Oily, and also by Robert Chesney, Bishop of Lincoln, and Pope Eugene III.[m] The words of this original endowment in this MS. are as follow: "*Eton* all my towne the which long to hit, outetake the mill, the which I haue gife to another Church." Within this hamlet is *Fryse's* farm, lying between the Banbury and Woodstock roads. The grant of this is included in the great charter of Robert de Oily the second, and the words of the grant in his charter are thus rendered into old English in the Exchequer MS.: "And the Chapell of *Frees* with the mansion and londe against the Chapell towards the west with Fedyngs and pastures and his other purtenances." Here, in Antony Wood's time, was standing nothing but a shepherd's house and no remains of the Chapel.

By an inquisition taken 23, 24 of Edward III., it appears that the Abbot of Oseney held the manor of Weston and *Water Eton* by the service of two knights' fees[n].

By original letters patent under the privy seal and by authority of Parliament, Henry VIII., on the 24th of September, 34th of his reign, granted to Robert King, Bishop of Oxford, divers estates, parcels of the possessions of Oseney Abbey, and among them, *Water Eton*, to the said late monastery lately belonging.

It remained but a short time in the possession of the Bishop of Oxford, and was resumed again by the Crown, and the King (Henry VIII.) by a deed of exchange dated September 1, 37th of his reign, made between him and William Burg, Merchant of the Staple at Calais, in consideration of the manor of Calchill, in the county of Kent, gave to the said William Burg all that his manor of *Water Eton*, in the county of Oxford, and all that his Graces pastures, called *Fryse*, in Water Eton, &c.[o]

[l] Oxenscire terra de Oilgi.

[m] Carta Rob. de Oilii, Dugd. Monast. ii. 137, Chartulary Cotton. Libr.

[n] Dods. MS. vol. lx. f. 188. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 102.

[o] Valor. Ecclesiast. Extracts from grants, Archives of Exeter College.

The manor is now in possession of John Sawyer, Esq., of Waywood Lodge.

During the civil wars the Manor House was the abode of the Lord Lovelace, and evidently considered as a place of importance. It is now only used as a farm house. Lady Lovelace was seized here by a party of the Parliamentary troops from Banbury, forced into her carriage, and driven to Middleton, where she was turned out and compelled to walk back. J.L.R.

SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL.

PATRON.
W. TURNER, ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	16	0	by	20	10
Nave	35	0	by	21	0
Tower	5	2	by	5	4

A SMALL plain Church, the nave and tower modern, the Chancel original: the Church stands in a very picturesque situation on a cliff, on the banks of the Cherwell.

The Chancel is Decorated, late in the style; the east window is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, of three lights, cinquefoiled, with flowing tracery, the dripstone returned horizontally: the side windows are Decorated, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head. The Chancel-arch is equilateral, pointed, with chamfered edges, and a Decorated label. In the north wall is a sepulchral arch, cinquefoiled, having a stone coffin, with a coped lid with a cross upon it.

In the Church-yard there is the shaft of an ancient cross, surmounted by a cross fleuree.

There is a vignette of the old Church in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 21. B. BEVAN, Ch. Ch.

TACKLEY.

PATRONS.
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	29	4	by	13	7
Nave	51	0	by	17	0
Aisle	51	0	by	12	0
Tower, exterior . . .	20	0	by	8	0
Tower, interior . . .	13	0	by	5	0

A CRUCIFORM Church, of mixed styles, with a tower in the centre, mostly Perpendicular.

CHANCEL—The east window is a very good Early English triplet, three lancet lights combined into one composition, with shafts attached: on the south side are two Perpendicular windows, with stone benches under them in the recess; and a good piscina in the angle. The corbels of the old roof remain, and are good octagon Perpendicular; the present roof is modern, of low pitch, and bad. In the north wall of the Chancel is an Early English recessed arch for a tomb, with a doorway by the side, and a detached shaft of purbeck marble between; the label of this arch is very bold, with a deep hollow under: the tomb is Perpendicular, with flat-arched panels and buttresses between, and an incised slab, with a cross fleury, very simple.

Piscina in North Transept. c. 1450

NAVE—The west window is good Decorated, of three lights, the mullions intersecting, with foliations: on the north side, an aisle, destroyed, two Norman arches filled up, and a small Norman door, rebuilt, under the western arch; on the south side, three Early English arches, the pillars with good caps, having the stiff-leaf foliage; arches pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered, with early labels and terminations. The clerestory and roof are plain and late.

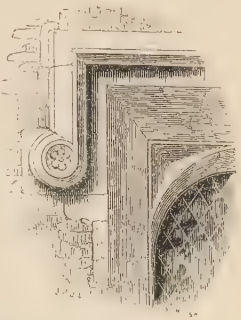
Section of arch of West Window. c. 1350.

The TOWER-ARCHES are Early English, very plain and massive, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off; the piers semi-octagon, caps or imposts plain, the mouldings deep and undercut: in the spandril of the north arch of the tower there is a square-headed window cut through the wall, with an iron grating in it; the use of

Impost, c. 1220.

this window is not very clear, but it seems to have been connected with the rood-loft. The upper story of the tower is Perpendicular.

The North Transept and window are Perpendicular, early in the style, the window-head rather of transition character. The roof is plain: there is a good small piscina and a square manorial pew, with Elizabethan carving, and the date 1613: The south transept is also Perpendicular; the roof of the same style, plain open timber work; the south aisle has Perpendicular windows, of late character, one of which has a good termination of the label, or dripstone. I.H.P.



Dripstone termination, c. 1520.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1226, 10, 11 Henry III., Genteschive le Povre presented a clerk to the Church of Ottindon, and three years before had with Emma de Podus, his wife, presented to the Church of Tackley[a].

A.D. 1314. On the morrow after Michaelmas day, 8th of Edward II., John de Wyithulle, son and heir of Sir Walter de Wyithulle, by deed dated at Kirtlington, did release and quit claim to Hugh le Duke of Wretchwike, within the parish of Burcester, all his right and claim in eighteen perches of arable land in length, and four perches in breadth, in the field of Tackle, in a parcel of ground called Wyitstandelf, to remain to the said Hugh and his heirs for ever[b].

This manor and estate belonged to Henry Lord Beaumont, an eminent man in the reigns of King Edward II. and King Edward III., in whose reign he died. He was in the 11th of king Edward III. constable of the king's army sent into Scotland, and in consideration of his great services, obtained, among other things, a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands in this place. He left this manor, 14th Edward III., to his son

[a] Rog. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 42. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 282.

[b] Kennett, vol. i. p. 526.

John, Lord Beaumont; but he enjoyed it not above two years, and then dying, left it to Eleanor his wife, who, 17 Edward III., procured another charter of the king for free warren for her demesne lands in this place. She left it to her son and heir, Henry Lord Beaumont, who being born beyond sea was legitimated by Parliament 25 Edward III. As to the Church here, we may observe that upon a vacancy of the vicarage, one Mr. Rogers, who was then Rector of the said Church, affirming that the vicarage was not regularly ordained, with the consent of all parties concerned, did petition Oliver Sutton, then Bishop of Lincoln, that the said vicarage might be consolidated with the rectory; whereupon the Bishop having made a due inquisition about it, did so consolidate them, ult. Octob. 1299[c].

George Powers Knight, who died 1424, was Lord of this manor.

1483, April 22, Oliver Sompnour resigned the living of Oddington and accepted that of Tackley[d].

A.D. 1499, May 17. John Hulse was presented to the living of Tackley on the death of Oliver Somner, on the presentation of Clementina Newere, widow of John Newere, gentleman[e].

Peter Ailworth, Esq., who died 1595, and was buried in the Church, also possessed this manor; subsequently it became the property of the Harborne family. John Harborne built here a handsome manor house, of which an outer gate of entrance is now all that remains. A mural monument of the Harbornes is attached to the east wall of the north transept. The advowson of the Rectory was purchased by St. John's College, Oxford, in 1719.

The Register commences 1559. The manner in which it is preserved, being substantially bound in russia, is worthy of general adoption[f].

[c] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 382.

[d] Reg. Russel, Kennett, vol. i. p. 496.

[e] Reg. Smith, Ep. London, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 526.

[f] Skelton, Wootton Hundred, p. 21.

ROWSHAM.

PATRON.
C. COTTRELL DORMER,
ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A PLAIN Church, mostly Decorated, but with parts transition Norman. Plan oblong, with one aisle and a tower at the west end.

THE CHANCEL is Decorated, the east window bad, having no foliations; the north window tolerably good, of three lights, foliated; a good Decorated piscina. The Chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, very plain, and not recessed, with Norman shafts in the angles of the square pier on the west side.

THE NAVE—The western arch is transition Norman, with good Norman caps, arch pointed, not recessed, but the edges chamfered off; the other two arches are different, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, on octagon pillars, with moulded caps of the Decorated style, but very plain. The south aisle is Decorated, with a good west window.

THE TOWER is Decorated, the arch deeply recessed, chamfered, with moulded caps to round shafts: the windows on the first-floor, lancets, small, and recessed; the belfry windows, on the south side, of two lights, with octagon shaft, round-headed, on the north side, pointed, on the west side, square-headed; the west door has a Decorated dripstone; the buttresses are very small, not more than four feet high; there is no staircase.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Rowesham formed part of the grant of Robert de Oilgi, and of Roger de Iveri[g].

A.D. 1149, 14, 15, Stephen, in the charter of Robert d'Oily, of asignment to Oseney, Rowlesham formed a part of the barony of Hokenorton.

A.D. 1227, Dec. 5, the king presented to one moiety of the Church of Rollesham, com. Oxon.

A.D. 1229, we find the other moiety of the Church of Rollesham was in the patronage of Walter de Fontibus.

Within the year 1280, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, presented to the Church of Rollesham (now Rowsham[h].)

A.D. 1635. The manor of Rowsham with its appurtenances was conveyed by a deed bearing date 1st May, 1635, from the Hawtreys to Sir Robert Dormer, of Dorton. By the will of General James Dormer, who died 1744, or thereabouts, Rowsham descended to Sir Clement Cottrell, Knight, Master of the Ceremonies, who took the name of Dormer. He is the first bearing that name who is interred in the parish church at Rowsham, as it was not the ancient burying-place of the Dormers. There are many inscriptions to the memory of the Martens, who possessed a part of Rowsham. This part of the estate was purchased, by the present owner, of the late Benjamin Holloway, Esq., of Lee Place, in this county, A.D. 1828.

Near to the Church is the handsome embattled residence, in the Elizabethan style, of C. Cottrell Dormer, Esq., of which there is a view in Skelton's Oxfordshire.

[g] Kennett, vol. i. p. 90, 91, 142, 284, 291.

[h] R. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 144. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 418.

STEEPLE ASTON.

PATRONAGE OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Peter.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.

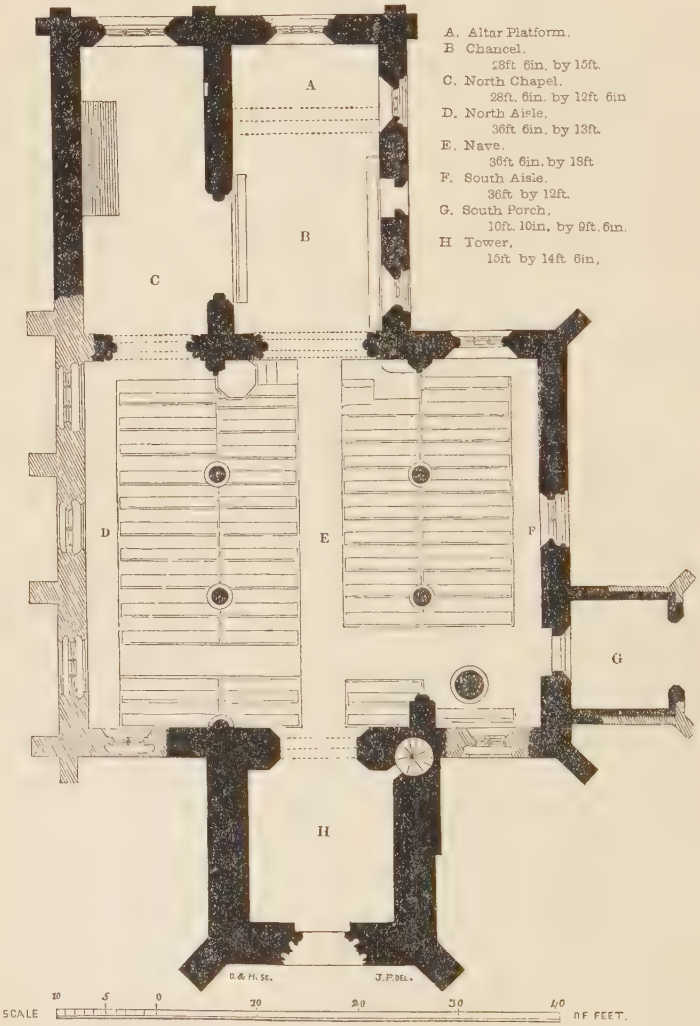
HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

A MIXED Church, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is debased Perpendicular. The east window is of three lights, with two transoms, each light foliated, but no room for tracery in the head: three side windows on the south side, of two lights, with transoms. The Chancel-arch is Early Decorated, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, springing from the caps of triple-shafts attached to the jambs: a good Perpendicular Chancel-screen has lately been restored: the roof is plain, low, and bad.

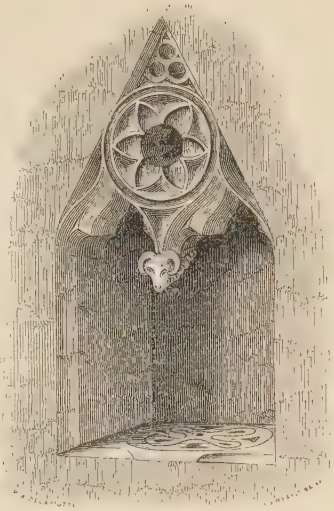
The north aisle of the Chancel has a fine Decorated east

THE GROUND PLAN.



The parts left light were rebuilt in 1842

window of three lights, with flowing tracery and a good label, with singular terminations, and the mullions are moulded. In this aisle there is a small Decorated piscina, with its drain perfect, and a foliated circle in the head, the cusps of which terminate in the centre in a ram's head. The arch between the Chancel and aisle is Decorated, with good bold mouldings continuous to the ground. The north wall of this aisle has been rebuilt without windows, to accommodate the monument of Sir Francis and Lady Page, 1741.



The arch between this aisle and that of the Church is Decorated, springing from corbels: this arch, as well as that on the side, had been built up for many years, but were re-opened in the recent improvements: the roof is still hid by a flat plaster ceiling.

The Nave is of three bays, with Early English arches, having moulded caps and label, rather early in the style: the roof is modern imitation of old work. A canted ceiling, divided into panels: the work is well executed, and the design tolerably good. A clerestory was removed at the time this was put on, in 1842; but it was a late addition to the Church, and scarcely worth preserving.

The north aisle is Perpendicular, lately rebuilt.

The south aisle is Decorated, the windows chiefly modern imitation. It has a good Perpendicular boarded ceiling, with moulded ribs, pierced springers, and stone corbel-heads.

The south door and porch are Decorated; the door moulded, with the roll-moulding for a label; the windows of the porch are rather singular, loops on the outside, widely splayed within. The south porch, aisle, and Chancel, have Perpendicular battlements, with cornice, having heads at wide inter-

vals, over which were formerly pinnacles, some portions of which still remain.

The Tower is good Perpendicular, the lower part plain, but with a good west door, very deeply recessed, with bold ogee and hollow mouldings, continued nearly to the ground; a window in the first floor of two lights, plain, with an opening in the head and a Perpendicular label; the upper windows of two lights, with flamboyant tracery and Perpendicular labels: the parapet battlemented, and cornice plain Perpendicular, with heads at the corners, having spouts out of their mouths, and another head in the centre of each front. The buttresses are placed diagonally, and have oblong panels let into the face, engrailed round the edges, with a shield in the centre.

The seats are all open, good carved oak, late Perpendicular

work, with a variety of patterns on the ends; those which had been damaged have lately been restored in very good taste. The font is round, with flat patterns of a diamond shape, of various sizes; from the shallowness and character of the work, it appears to be an imitation of the time of Charles II., but

may possibly be, as many persons consider it, genuine work of the twelfth century.

In the parish chest in this Church is carefully preserved a very valuable relic of the olden time, consisting of part of the hangings of the Altar, of the fourteenth century, richly embroidered with the martyrdom of saints in small divisions; and, considering its age, it is in a very perfect state. There are the steps and base of a Perpendicular cross in the Church-yard.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1362, four acres of land in Stepelaston, and the advowson of the church, were granted to Robert, by Divine permission, Prior of Cold-Norton, by Ricardus de Abberbury (Adderbury) Chivaler, 1362; and Thomas de Abberbury [i], Lord of Steeple Aston, granted the same, at the same time the convent engaging to find four canons to pray for the soul of *Thomas Abberbury, Clerke* [k].

In 1366, 40, 41 Edw. III., William de Liwte, parson of Steple-Aston, made a release of all claim to the manors of Borstall, Musewell, &c.[1]

A.D. 1496. The Priory of Cold Norton escheated to the crown, 11 Hen. VII. 1496; and in the 22nd Hen. VII. (1506-7), Hugh Croft, Esq., released to the king, for himself and his heirs, all right and title to the Priory. The lands were then worth £50 per annum. It was given the next year to the Dean and Chapter of St. Stephen's, Westminster. Bishop Smith, the co-founder of Brasenose College, Oxford, and who was Dean of St. Stephen's College in 1492, purchased in the 4th of King Hen. VIII. of Thomas Hobbys, then Dean, and the Chapter, all the lands, tenements, and revenues of the Priory, and gave the whole to his College of Brasenose, in the 5th of Hen. VIII. The lands so given have belonged to that society ever since. Wood says

[i] It is a reasonable conjecture that this Thomas Abberbury, lord of Steeple Aston and clerk, is the person described by Ant. Wood, as a parson out of remembrance, whose monument of alabaster was removed with others to make room for Sir F. Page, &c.

[k] Yate, p. 56; vid. Churton's Lives of the Founders of Brasenose College.

[1] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 143, &c.

that Bishop Smith had some thoughts of founding his College on the site of this Priory.

A.D. 1596, 14th June, Joh. Buckfold, cl'ic. S.T.B. ad eccl. de Steple Aston ad pres. Tho. d'ni Buckhurst prænob. ord. Garter. mil. ratione advocat. concess. per principal. et scholares aul. reg. et coll. de Brasennose [m].

About 1622, some Roman tesselated pavement was dug up in this parish.

Samuel Radcliffe, D.D., Principal of Brasenose College, who had been Rector of this parish, endowed a school here in 1640. He likewise founded two Scholarships in his College, to be supplied, if possible, from his school at Steeple Aston. He was ejected from the headship of Brasenose College by the committee of the Lords and Commons, for the Reformation of the University, on the 20th of January, 1647. He died 26th of June, 1648, and was buried in the chancel of St. Mary's Church. He likewise endowed an almshouse for the poor in this parish, but the building which bears his name was erected by the College. Dr. Radcliffe, having left a sum of money for the purpose, his heirs-at-law disputed the bequest, and according to an arrangement made, two-thirds only of four hundred pounds was retained by the College for building, endowing, &c.

Daniel Greenwood, D.D., uncle to the Rector of Steeple Aston of the same name, is buried in the Chancel of the Church by the side of the grave of his nephew. He was voted Principal of Brasenose, in the place of Dr. Radcliffe, by the Parliament committee, and was put in possession of it by the visitors in 1648. He was Vice Chancellor of Oxford in 1650, and was ejected by the King's commission in August 1660.

[m] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 416.

NORTH ASTON.

PATRON.
C. O. BOWLES, ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	37	6	by	13	10
Nave	27	0	by	21	0
Tower.	9	6	by	8	2
North Aisle of Nave. . .	27	10	by	8	6
South Aisle of Nave . .	29	2	by	11	0
South Aisle of Chancel .	20	2	by	11	0

A MIXED Church, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is of the Decorated style, with a modern east window: on the north side are three windows, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head: on the south side is one similar window, and an arch opening to the south aisle: westward of this arch is a square opening through the wall, divided by a thick mullion, and more splayed towards the east than the west. The Chancel-arch is blocked up above, and a Grecian screen inserted, painted in perspective[n].

The NAVE is of the Decorated style, having plain arches on octagonal pillars, with moulded capitals. The south aisle and the sepulchral chapel on the south side of the Chancel[o], are Decorated, with good windows. The north aisle is also Decorated, with two windows of that style, and a Perpendicular one inserted. The roof is formed of plain oak beams and rafters, and is almost flat: there are two small clerestory windows on each side.

The pulpit is of very fine oak, with the Howard coat of arms well carved in front, being the gift of Lady Howard about 1720.

[n] As soon as the requisite funds can be obtained, it is contemplated to take down the present plaster ceiling of the Chancel, which now comes down far below the apex of the Chancel-arch, to remove the Grecian screen, and throw it quite open; and to substitute a pointed stained window in lieu of the present *round-headed* unsightly-looking light.

[o] Called the Lord's Aisle in MSS. collections in Colonel Bowles's library.

There are some good open seats, of oak, with carved ends. The Font is of the time of Charles II.

The walls of the mansion-house approach to within a yard of the tower: no view whatever can be got either of the tower or of the Church till you come near to the church-yard gates. The tower, overgrown on all sides with ivy, is a beautifully picturesque object: the tower-arch is lofty, of the Perpendicular style, with well-moulded capitals. B. BEVAN, CH. CH.

Under the arch, on the south side of the Chancel, is an altar-tomb of alabaster, supporting the recumbent figures of a knight in armour, and his lady, in fine preservation. The knight has a collar of SS. arms: party per pale: dexter, argent, on a bend sable three martlets of the first, a crescent of the second for difference; sinister, gules, three lions passant argent. These arms occur also in the east window of the south aisle. As weepers round the tomb, there are "fourteen little statues in monastic habits, carrying staves, beads, &c., and three plumed figures, supporting shields, within Gothic niches." These surround three sides of the tomb. This monument has no name upon it, but is thus described at p. 67 of "The Gatheringes of Oxfordsher A°. Dom. 1574," by Richard Lee Portcullis, MS. Wood 14. D. in the Ashmolean Museum. "In North Aston Church

a man in armour wth a woman
in a baron's robe very ancient
Johns Ann & Alicia uxor ejus,
ob. 1416."

The arms are tricked as above, together with another impaled shield, which perhaps then also existed on the monument[p]. At p. 66 of the same MS. these coats appear among the shields of alliances which Lee gives as being "in the ancient house of Anne[q] in Northaston."

[p] Ant. Wood repeats Lee's account of this monument. MSS. E. 1. fol. 113.

[q] This is the surname of the very ancient Catholic family of Anne of Frickley, in the parish of Hooton Pagnel in Yorkshire, who took the name of Tasburgh in 1810. Their arms were gules three bucks' heads caboshed arg. attired or—but in the family chapel there was formerly a stone with three martlets on

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday Survey, Aston (Etone) formed part of the grant of Robert de Oiley.

The next mention of Aston is in 1262, 46, 47 Hen. III., when the name of William de Montacute occurs as Lord of the manor[r].

In 1295, the advowson of the Church of Aston Cantelua, was given by John de Hastyng to the Prior and Convent of Stodley, together with certain lands in that parish[s].

In 1336, Sir John de Molins, lord of the manors of Brill and Ludgarshale, did now obtain licence from the king to make a castle of his manor house at Aston, and to impark his woods in Ilmere, with one hundred acres of pasture in Bekkenesfeld, Burnham, and Chippenham; and to have free warren in Bekkenesfeld, Chalfhunt, &c., being now engaged in the wars of Scotland of the retinue of William de Montacute[t].

In 1425, Sir William Molins, died July the eighth, seized of the manors of Henle, Aston, &c. &c., leaving William, his son and heir, 19 years of age. Of which manors, Laurence de Scaccario held two carucates of land in Abbeford, within the parish of Aston, com. Oxon, in 13 Edw. I., by the serjeanty of being marshal to the justices itinerant through all England, and to the justices of the King's Bench, and barons of the Exchequer[u].

In 1411, this manor, with others, became the property of Robert Hungerford, Esq., as part of the lands of inheritance of Alianore, daughter and heir of Sir William Molins.

This estate and manor were left to Mrs. Henrietta Fermor, sister of Mr. Fermor of Tusmore, by Madam Brooke, who died in France in 1716[x].

a bend, and this inscription, "Hic jacet Alyss de Anne, quæ obiit xx die Februarii, A° D^ni millesimo cccc, cujus animæ propitietur Deus." Dr. Nathaniel Johnston, who describes the mansion at Frickley in his topographical collections, says, that over the door entering into the court before the house is a shield, with three martlets on a bend, which tradition says are the arms of the family from whom Frickley came to the Annes. On an old stable-door the same, quartering an eagle displayed. Over the door, carved in wood, "God save Martin Anne and Frances his wife 1572."—Vide Hunter's South Yorkshire, vol. ii. p. 148.

[r] R. Dods. MS. vol. xxix. p. 103. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 366.

[s] Pat. 24. Edw. I. Nov. 15. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 461.

[t] Dugd. Bar. tom. ii. p. 100. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 33.

[u] Blount's Antient Tenures, p. 72. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 247.

[x] Dr. Hutton's MS. Collections in Bibl. Bodl.

Lady Howard, the great benefactress to the church, was the widow of a Sir Robert Howard, afterwards the wife of Dr. Marten, sometime rector of Somerton. She held a life interest in the estate by virtue of a lease from one of the Fermor family, about 1716.

It appears to have come into the possession of a Mr. Oldfield about 1746; from him into the present family. 1st. Charles Bowles; 2nd. Oldfield Bowles; 3rd. Charles Oldfield Bowles.

DUNSTEW.

PATRON.

SIR G. DASHWOOD, BART.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.

HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	39	0	by	14	0
Nave	50	6	by	18	6
North Aisle	57	0	by	9	6
Tower	13	0	by	13	0

A PLAIN Church of mixed styles, with tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL has a Perpendicular east window of three lights, with brackets for images on each side of it; on the north side is a lancet window; on the south side are two plain square windows and a door. No piscina or sedilia. Chancel-arch Decorated, plain, with moulded imposts; arch into north aisle also Decorated, quite plain, with roll-moulding for impost; no other capital, and the recess and chamfered edges of arch are continued to the ground in both these arches. Across the Chancel-arch a screen, of Early Perpendicular work, the pattern quite Decorated. In the jamb of the Chancel-arch on the west side is a Decorated niche.

The Nave on the north side has three Decorated arches, on tall octagon pillars, with moulded caps, ornamented with heads. The south side has two windows, and a small plain round-headed door, with Decorated mouldings. The north aisle is Decorated, with two windows of this style, and a door, stopped up; the other two windows square Perpendicular. The roof is plain, and not original. The font is a clumsy imitation of Norman, probably of the time of Charles II. There is a cross on the east gable; no parapet to either nave or Chancel.

The south porch is Perpendicular.

The Tower is Perpendicular; the west door very deeply recessed, and well moulded, with ogees and hollows; the windows are square headed, of two lights; buttresses, diagonal, in stages; parapet, plain, with pinnacles at the angles, and a stair-turret at the north-west angle.

This Church is much overgrown with ivy. I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Duns Tewe (Tewa) is enumerated as part of the land of Robert de Oilgi. It formed part of his gift to Oseney Abbey, confirmed by his nephew in 1149[y].

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., it is described as a Vicarage of the annual value of viij*l.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*, belonging to the priory of Merton, John Andrewes being then vicar. The priory of Merton was in Surrey; how this living came to be taken from Oseney, and given to this distant priory does not appear. At the Dissolution it passed into the hands of lay impropriators, and in 1690 was the property of Sir John Read, Bart.; in 1746 of Dorothy Dashwood, widow; and in 1768 of Sir Henry Dashwood, Bart; the certified value being then £75. 12*s.* The present value, according to the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £237.

[y] Kennett, vol. i. p. 90, 142. and Dugdale's Monasticon Ang., vol. ii. p. 138.

SANDFORD,

(NEAR WOODSTOCK.)

PATRONS.	St. Martin.	DEANERY
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,		OF WOODSTOCK.
AND		HUNDRED
MRS. MARSHALL HACKER.		OF WOOTTON.

A MIXED Church, with a Perpendicular tower at the west end.

CHANCEL—the east window is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, of three lights, foliated, with a Decorated label, the tracery a curious mixture of the two styles: on the north side are two small lancet windows, recessed and chamfered externally, one of them blocked up in the inside: on the south side are two plain square-headed oblong windows, and a small round-headed door; the walls are of rubble, with ashlar dressings, without buttresses: close to the west end of the south wall is a low side-window, now blocked up; it has been a plain square-headed opening like the windows. There is a plain round-headed small piscina, with part of its basin, of late Decorated work, and a stone seat in the sill of the south-east window: in the north wall is a plain oblong locker: there are three steps to the Altar. The roof is poor, and not original. The Chancel-arch is Early English, with plain shafts attached to the jambs, having moulded caps. The screen is Perpendicular, with some good panels on the lower part. The space above it in the arch

East Window.

is boarded up, and painted with the arms of Elizabeth, and the date 1602 upon it. The painting is curious, the ground being a sort of ermine pattern; the screen itself has retained the paint of the same period, blue, red, white, and yellow.

The Nave has on the north side three transition Norman pointed arches, recessed and chamfered, on octagon piers, with rude Norman caps, very plain, with thick abacus; on the south side are three plain Early English arches, on round pillars, with moulded capitals. The clerestory windows are good Perpendicular, of two lights, square-headed: the roof of the nave is plain Perpendicular, open timber. The font is octagon, cup-shaped, on an octagon shaft, the upper part ornamented with zigzags, and some other Norman ornaments.

The north aisle has plain square-headed windows and door.

The south aisle has an east window of three lights, pointed, with curious tracery, transition from Decorated to Perpendicular; near it is the head of a very rich Decorated piscina, almost hid behind a deal pew: the side windows are of two lights, also transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, as is the south door, which is well moulded, and the dripstone terminated by heads; the south porch is of the same character, having a plain groined vault, very low, with a room over it; and a plain niche for a stoup, with part of the stone basin: the outer door of the porch is plain, with a Perpendicular dripstone. The pews are mostly plain old oak. The pulpit is Perpendicular, with oak panelling, having a stone foot, which is Decorated, ornamented with the ball flower. The reading desk, of Perpendicular panelling, is probably made out of part of the screen.

The Tower-arch is plain, chamfered, dying into the walls: the west door of the tower is Perpendicular: the west window, of three lights, with good tracery, is transition from Decorated. The upper part of the tower is Perpendicular, with belfry windows of two lights, and a battlement.

The parapets of the nave and aisles are plain Perpendicular, with a cornice moulding, but no ornaments.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Sandford formed part of the grant of "Terra Epi' Baiocensis in Levecanol Hund.[z]"

A.D. 1104, 4th and 5th of Henry I., Nigel de Oily, constable of the castle of Oxford, and lord of the barony of Hooknorton, held at this time in feudatory service from the abbot and monks of Abingdon, one meadow at Oxford, one hide at Sandford, and one hide in Ernecote, or Arncot, within the parish of Ambrosden, which had been all given to that Abbey by Robert de Oily his brother and predecessor[a].

A.D. 1264, 48 and 49 Henry III., Roger de St. John, lord of Staunton, slain in the battle of Evesham, had confirmed to the canons of Oseney that gift which his father had made to them, of a mill and five yards' land in Weston, near Burcester, called Simeon's land. He likewise confirmed the grant of the church of Great Barton, with the chapels of Sandford and Ledwell[b].

A.D. 1273, 1 and 2 Edw. I. On July 12, Reginald, Bishop suffragan of Gloucester (who was substituted by Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, to visit these parts of the diocese of Lincoln, and to consecrate new churches), consecrated the Chapel of St. Martin's, in Sandford, belonging to the parish of Great Barton[c].

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., it is described as a Vicarage of the annual value of vij*l.* xj*s.*, belonging to the abbey of Oseney, Robert Draycote being the vicar. At the Dissolution it passed into private hands, and in 1695 belonged to Alice Croker, widow; from 1731 to 1750 to Joseph Taylor, Esq.; and in 1784 to the Duke of Marlborough. The certified value at that time was £25; the present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £200.

[z] Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.
[a] Kennett, vol. i. p. 102.
[b] Dug. Bar., tom. i. p. 539. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 371.
[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 393, 395.

WESTCOTT BARTON.

PATRON. St. Edward. DEANERY

REV. S. Y. SEAGRAVE. OF WOODSTOCK.

HUNDRED

OF WOOTTON.

The exterior of this Church presents the appearance of a neat little Perpendicular building, with a tower at the west end of the same age and style, but in the interior there are portions of Norman work.

The Chancel has a Perpendicular east window of three lights, with a pointed arch; the side windows are of two lights, Perpendicular, square-headed, with good jamb mouldings, tracery, and labels; there is a small Perpendicular door on the south side; a very small Perpendicular piscina, and a stone seat in the sill of the south-east window. The Chancel-arch is transition Norman, acutely pointed, square-edged, not recessed, with plain square jambs and Norman imposts: there is a good Perpendicular screen across the arch, but much mutilated; the lower part is perfect, with the door, consisting of good panel work, with remains of the old painting, red, blue, and yellow.

The Nave has on the north side three Perpendicular windows, the same as the side windows of the Chancel, the remains of the rood-loft staircase and the arch of a doorway; on the south side two plain Norman semicircular arches, with labels, the central pillar round, with a square scolloped cap and a square base, the responds plain, square, with imposts only.

The south aisle has also Perpendicular windows, the east window has good curling terminations to the dripstone; the porch is neat Perpendicular, the south door is also Perpendicular, with ogee and hollow mouldings, but the old oak door

has been preserved, with hinges of the Norman C form, and other old iron work. The font is plain round, on a square base, probably Norman, but of no marked character. The seats are mostly old oak benches, but some have deal pews built upon them. The pulpit and desk modern and bad. The roofs are all concealed by plaster ceilings.

Door Handle

The Tower is plain Perpendicular, terminated by a battlement; the belfry windows good Perpendicular, pointed, of two lights, with transoms, and the heads foliated: the tower-arch is good plain Perpendicular, but has a singers' gallery built across it; one of the bells is broken, and lies on the ground in the tower.

There are the steps and base of a Perpendicular cross in the church-yard.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., this living is described as a rectory of the yearly value of vij*l.* x*s.* vij*d.*, D. Fever, rector. In 1712 and 1749, it belonged to John Welchman, Gent.; in 1760 to Constance Welchman and others; in 1763 to John Welchman and Samuel Seagrave; being then of the certified value of £75. The present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £179.

STEEPLE BARTON.

PATRONS.

W. AND M. MISTER.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.

HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	20	4	by	18	6
Nave	49	1	by	39	0
South Aisle	49	0	by	9	5
Tower	13	10	by	13	10

A plain Church, of mixed styles, with a square tower at the west end: Chancel has been patched in a Debased style, but the walls are Decorated. The east window has a Decorated arch in

the inside, but the window itself is a plain square-headed insertion of three lights, with flat segmental heads not foliated. The two windows on the south side are similar, but they all have Decorated dripstones of the roll moulding. The north window is original, two lights, with ogee heads trefoiled, the eyes open and foliated; it is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, and has also the roll moulding for a dripstone. The roof is modern, flat, and poor. The corbels of the old roof remain; they are good Decorated masks, cut in oak. The communion-table and rails, plain. Several monuments in the Elizabethan style to the families of Blundel, Humfrey, and Dormer.

Oak Corbel in Chancel

The Nave has on the north side two Decorated square-headed windows, one of which is partly blocked up; two modern windows and a small plain door blocked up. On the south side are five good Decorated arches, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, and the labels united by heads. The pillars octagon, slender, with good Decorated caps, ornamented by heads, resembling those at Woodstock and Hampton Poyle. The Chancel-arch is Decorated, with a label; the jambs quite plain. This arch is boarded up, and the arms of James II., supported by curious figures with wings, are painted on this boarding, with the date, 1686, and this text under them in Black letter:

Window, on the North side.

"My son feare thou the Lord and the King and medle not with them that are given to Change."

This boarding might be better removed from the arch, but the painting should be preserved and placed against the blank wall.

The roof of the nave is plain and bad, not original; the corbels of the old roof remain, and are Decorated. The south aisle has an east window of four lights, transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, the head of which is filled up. On the south side are two square-headed late Decorated windows, of two lights, with good dripstones, the terminations of which consist of half-length figures of animals; the west window is also Decorated, but filled up; the roof flat and poor; the south door is Decorated, with a well-moulded arch, the dripstone terminated by heads, shafts in the jambs, with a fillet on the face, the caps moulded. The south porch is also Decorated; the outer arch bricked up, and a square door inserted; there is a trefoil-headed niche for the stoup; the wooden door is the old one cut down and patched, with the old iron-work preserved. The tower is plain Perpendicular, with tolerably good west door and window; diagonal buttresses in stages, and a plain battlement. The inside is finished with ashlar-work, and the tower-arch has evidently been open to the Church, though now boarded up, and a singing gallery built across it. The font is plain, round, but the sides are fluted with very shallow flutes; the base moulding is Decorated. The pewing consists partly of open seats, some old, some of the time of James II.; all the enclosed deal pews are of quite modern date. The pulpit and reading-desk are modern and bad. The walls of this Church are sound, but the roofs are in a very bad state; it appears to have been principally built in the fourteenth century, and to have had new roofs and other alterations in the time of James II.

Dripstone Termination

Steeple Barton manor-house is situated about a quarter of a mile east of the Church, a part of this building is yet remaining; it was built, according to Wood's MSS., E. 1. p. 100, Ash. Mus., by John Dormer, circa 1524. The Dormers were merchants of the staple, and the arms of the staple merchants were to be seen in Wood's time in two or three places on the

walls of the court before the house. Over the door leading to the stables and to the house, were written, "Thinke and Thanke, ann. 1570." In the upper part of the house were several rooms of large dimensions, which were perhaps formerly used as dormitories; but there was one about 92 feet long, which appears to have been the ball or banquet room, as the walls were ornamented with paintings in fresco, chiefly of allegorical designs, but better drawn and executed than most specimens of that period. In 1678, and 1679, Ralph Sheldon made considerable alterations within the house. Many adjoining remains prove the whole to have been an extensive establishment. There is a vignette of that part which is now standing in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 3.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name Berton did signify a granary, or store place for corn[d].

In 1082, Barton, part of the possessions of Rogerii de Iveri[e].

In 1360, Simon, son of Walter de Wodeham, in Surrey, released to Nicholas de Loveyn, Knight, and Margery his wife, all his right in the manors of Staunton St. John, Barton, &c., com. Oxon[f].

Roger de St. John, lord of Staunton, slain in the battle of Evesham, had confirmed to the canons of Oseney, that gift which his father had made to them of a mill and five yards land in Weston, near Burcester, called Simeons land. He likewise confirmed the grant of the Church of Great Barton, with the Chapels of Sandford and Ledwell[g].

The living is a discharged vicarage, valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* At the time of the Dissolution it belonged to Osney Abbey, and then passed into lay hands; in 1712 it belonged to John James, Esq.; in 1729 to the Earl of Godolphin; in 1772 to the Duke of Marlborough, in turns with Francis Page, Esq., and Dr. Taylor, being then of the clear yearly value of 31*l.* According to the late returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the present value is 78*l.*

[d] Kennett, vol. i. p. 37.
[e] Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.
[f] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 126.
[g] Dug. Bar., tom. i. p. 539; ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 371.

WOLVERCOT.

PATRONS.
MERTON COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

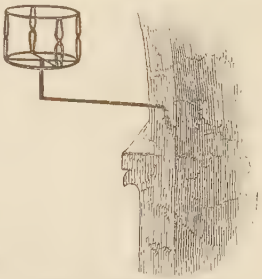
St. Peter.

DEANERY
OF OXFORD.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

Wolvercot Church.

A SMALL plain Church, mostly late Perpendicular, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is of two bays, the east window modern Perpendicular, not good. On the north side the wall is blank; on the south side are two small Perpendicular windows, square headed, of two lights, foliated, and a small door. The roof is ceiled; the Chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, the edges slightly chamfered, springing from Norman imposts, on plain jambs, across it are the remains of what has been a good Perpendicular rood-screen. There is an hour-glass stand by the side of the pulpit. The font is plain, round, ornamented with a diamond pattern, cut very shallow, and nearly effaced.



Impost of Chancel arch, with the Hour Glass Stand.

The NAVE is of five bays; on the south side are two square-headed Perpendicular windows, of three lights, cinque-

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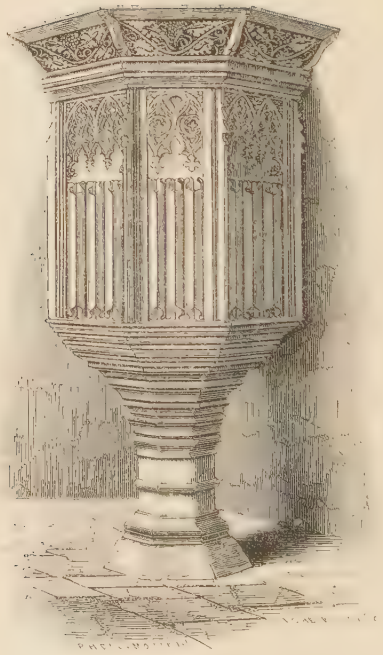
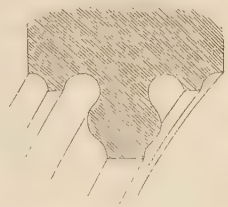


THE PULPIT (Restored).

This fine Pulpit is of the time of Henry VIII., and is at present in a sadly mutilated condition: the stem and base entirely concealed by deal boarding, and the upper part equally hidden by modern velvet hangings.

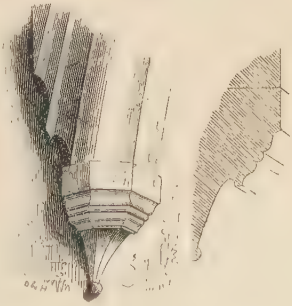
foiled, under a square dripstone, and one bad modern imitation: the south door is good Perpendicular, it has a pointed arch, under a square head, with foliated circles in the spandrils; the oak door is old, and has good iron hinges of the fifteenth century; the north wall is blank, except the arch into a chapel. The roof is late Perpendicular, open timber, rather flat, but with the springers pierced with open-work, resting on good stone corbel-heads, these are Decorated, rudely carved, but of good character.

The arch into the north chapel is Decorated, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, having shafts attached to the jambs, with Decorated moulded caps and bands; this chapel has square Perpendicular windows on the east and west sides, and two small round windows on the north side, to throw light under the canopy of a splendid marble monument, in the style of Charles II.; on a raised tomb under this canopy are three recumbent effigies, of a judge, in his robes, with a collar of SS., and his two wives; at the head are three daughters kneeling, and at the feet three sons; these smaller figures are kneeling on the slab of the monument; the whole has preserved its original painting and gilding. The judge is John Walter, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Groom of the Chamber to King Charles II.



The Tower is Perpendicular, of three stories, terminated by a battlement, but it is evidently built partly of old materials: the belfry windows are Decorated, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head, preserved from an older church, and built in: the tower-arch is Decorated, with ogee and hollow mouldings, and good corbels: the west door is

Battlement.



Corbel of Tower-Arch.

Perpendicular, having a pointed arch, moulded under a square head and dripstone, the spandrils sunk and ornamented with a flower of four leaves: the west window is of three lights, late Perpendicular, with a flat arch: the buttresses are placed diagonally. The roof is of stone, supported by stone ribs, forming a pointed vault, but not groined; the ribs are square, springing from plain corbels: this roof appears to have been rebuilt of the old materials: from which it may be gathered that the original tower, built in the fourteenth century, had a saddle-back roof, and when it was rebuilt in the fifteenth century, this was partly preserved, but concealed by a battlemented parapet, according to the fashion of that period.

Part of Roof of Tower

This Church is much encumbered by galleries, and consequently very dark, and the tower-arch is boarded up, which shuts out the west window. The pewing is partly square and high, partly open seats with plain poppies cut out of solid oak, but not moulded; these are of the time of Charles II., or later. The west gable of the north chapel is lofty and well proportioned, with the shaft of a cross upon it; the parapet and cornice of the nave are late Perpendicular.

GODSTOW.

The remains of the Nunnery of Godstow consist of a considerable part of the boundary wall, and at one corner the ruin of a domestic building of the fifteenth century, with a Perpendicular window of three lights, having a flat obtusely pointed arch, two small square-headed, and two small round-headed ones: the

wall is of considerable extent, and great part of it has Perpendicular basement mouldings. By the side of a modern barn, is a small bridge, of the fifteenth century, consisting of one pointed arch over a ditch. In another part of the wall is a Perpendicular gateway, with a four-centred arch, recessed, with hollow mouldings, and a good dripstone. The bridge over the river, at a short distance from the ruin, has two arches, one pointed, the other round; part of it is ancient, but much altered by modern work.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The village of Wulvercot is written in old evidences Wlgaricot, having been without doubt the habitation of Ulgarus, or Wolgarus, a Saxon, (temp. Saxonum.) The said village, by the name of Wlgaricot, was given to Godstowe nunnery (much about its dedication, an. 1138) by Bernardus de S. Walerico, for in the reg. book of the said Nunnery (cited by Dugdale, Monast. Anglic. vol. i. p. 526) it appears y^{t} Thom. de S. Walerico did confirme the gift of his father made to Godstow nunnery concerning the village of Wlgaricot, whether all the village, or some part of it I know not, because in the confirmation charter of K. Rich. I. of all the gifts before his

time made to the said Nunnery, is confirmed the said village of Wlgaricote given to that Nunnery by his father K. Henry. The church or chapel of Wulvercote is a chappell of ease to the church of St. Peter in the East, Oxon[h]. King Henry III. gave the Rectory of St. Peter, with the chappel thereto belonging, to the House of Walter de Merton, an. 1266, by virtue of which gift, the warden and Scholars of y[t] house became rectors of this chapel. In the year 1292, the said warden and scholars, with leave from the V., C. Oliver, Bp. of Lyncoln, did appropriate the said Rectory to their house. By virtue of w[ch] appropriation, this ch. or chapp. of Wulvercote was appropriated also. So y[t] thereupon the said church of St. Peter being made a vicarage (served by Merton coll. Fellows) the vicar of y[t] place, or his substitute, served here at Wulvercote, and had the lesser tithes for his paynes.

In the principal foundation charter of Osney Abbey by Rob. de Olleyo, the founder, he does give to y[t] Abbey tota decima de Wlgarikote.

Robert de Oiley, this founder, had the patronage of St. Peter's Church in the East, ... so consequently the chapp. of Wulvericote with it[i].

Edith, an eminent and devout matron, at her own proper charge built the Monastery of Godestow, near Oxford, which, at the latter end of December, 1138, in the 4th King Stephen, was dedicated by Alexander Bishop of Lincoln, to the honour of the Virgin Mary and St. John Baptist. King Stephen, and his Queen Maude, with their son Eustace, were present at laying the first stone, and were each a benefactor to it. John de St. John gave the site of the Abbey, and one mill of £4. in Wulvercot, and two houses and a parcel of land before the gate of the Church, in the island between the two rivers; and half a meadow, called Lambey, of which the other half was given by Robert de Oiley. Various other benefactions are recorded in the Monasticon, vol. i. p. 525, and in Kennett, vol. i. p. 129.

This Edith, the foundress, seems to have been the same with Edith, wife of Robert de Oiley; she being called "Memorabilis Matrona Deo devota," and was buried in Oseney Abbey, in a religious habit, as Mr. Leland, an eye-witness, reports. "There lyith an Image of Edithe of Stone in th abbite of a Wowes holding an Hart in her right Hond on the North side of the High Altare[k]."

A.D. 1171. 17, 18, Henry II. Bernard de St. Walery, Lord of the Manor of Ambrosden, seems now to have fallen into the King's dis-

[h] Vide Dugdale, Bar., vol. i. p. 459. b.
[i] A[nt]. Wood's MS. E. 1. p. 72.
[k] Leland, vol. ii. fol. 19.

pleasure, and to have his lands seized, and the rents paid into the Exchequer; for Hugh de S. Germans, sheriff, accounted for £50. of the fee of Bernard de S. Walery. But he soon made his peace, and it seems a condition of it, that he gave to the King the manor of Wulvercotte, near Oxford, and his right of advowson or patronage of the Nunnery of Godstow. The which village of Wulvercote, and site of the abbey, the King gave to those nuns by a charter wherein he acknowledges to have received them from Bernard de St. Walery, who seems to have become possessed of them in right of his second wife, Avoris, daughter of John de St. John, lord of Stanton, and to have brought in frank marriage the advowson of Godstow and the manor of Wulvercote, in which place some lands and the site of their house were at the foundation given by her father[l].

King Stephen, by his charter, granted to these nuns [of Godstow] a fair to be kept for the space of three days' space, at St. John Baptist. Multitudes of people resorted thereunto.

Walter Ld Clifford gave to this nunnery, for the health of his soul, and for the souls of Margaret his sometime wife, and Rosamund his daughter, the mill of Frantom (Frampton) in com. Gloc., and a little meede laying near it, called Lechson, and a salt pit at Wychi.—Walter his son, confirmed the gift of his father.—Rosamund his sister, was in the flour of her youth concubine to K. H. II., and afterwards a nun here, and dying about the yeare 1175, was buried in the church here, over whose grave was this written.

Hic jacet in tumba Rosa mundi, non rosa munda,
Non ridolet sed olet, quæ redoleri solet[m].

The story of her being poisoned by Queen Eleanor is of modern date. Brompton, Kington, and Higden, say she died a natural death soon after she was enclosed in her bower. Her parents buried her before the high Altar, at Godstow, her royal lover lavishing great expense on her tomb. About twenty years after, Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, visiting this nunnery, took offence at the immoral tendency of this, and ordered her corpse to be removed into the Chapter-house. Here it was again disturbed at the Reformation, as we read in Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, vol. i. p. 528. "Rosamunde's tumb, at Godestowe Nunnery was taken up a late; it is a stone with this inscription—'Tumba Rosamundae.' Her bones were closid in lede and withyn that bones were closid yn letter (leather). When it was opened there was a very swete smell came out of it."

[l] Kennett, vol. i. p. 175, 176.

[m] Ant. Wood, MS. E. 1. p. 74.

YARNTON.

PATRONS.
SIR G. DASHWOOD,
AND
WARDEN AND FELLOWS
OF
ALL SOULS' COLLEGE.

St. Bartholomew.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	45	0	by	15	9
South Aisle	48	0	by	14	0
Chancel	23	9	by	13	0
Chapel	31	0	by	18	9

An Early English Church, with late additions: the plan is singular; a nave and Chancel with a south aisle; this south aisle has a tower at the west end, and a chapel, called the Spencer Aisle, at the east end, and a south porch, built in 1616, as appears by the churchwardens' accounts, *sub anno*.

The pillars and arches are good Early English: the roofs of the nave and south aisle are open Perpendicular work; and there are some Perpendicular benches. The Chancel-arch has for its support three slender detached shafts, with bands: on the north side the arch has sunk considerably, by reason of interments on that side: the grooves and mortices for the insertion of the rood-loft beams are perceptible in and about the archivolt; the Chancel-roof was plastered about thirty years ago; the east window is of three lights, each lancet-shaped, the middle one being the highest, but all without any sort of tracery. The late Mr. Alderman Fletcher, out of his stores of painted glass, composed the east window, as also all the other painted glass windows of the Church: the large figure in the centre of the east window was, with its inscription *Stûs Bartholomæus*, inserted at the same time: some few pieces of the *original* painted glass of this Church escaped the fury of the Puritans in

1645, when the Parliament army was quartered in the neighbourhood: two Benedictine monks, remarkably well designed and coloured, a bishop, with the name *Nicholaus* on a label below, and an archbishop, in like manner subscribed *Thomas*, are still safely lodged within the mullions of the tracery-work at the top of the large north Perpendicular window, and serve to shew the old connection of this church with the Benedictine monastery of Ensham, to which it belonged, and whose cure was always supplied by the monks of that abbey. The side windows of the Chancel consist of two on the north side, both small, one pointed, the other round-headed, and both deeply recessed from within, and splayed; there are also two round-headed windows, of the same sort, in the south wall near the tower; externally they are pointed.

William Fletcher, Esq., mayor of Oxford, gave some Scripture pieces in sculptured alabaster[n], of the early part of the fifteenth century, representing—1. The Wise Men's Offering; 2. The betrayal with a kiss; 3. The Bearing of the Cross; 4. The crucified Saviour in the lap of the Virgin Mother; they are over the Altar.

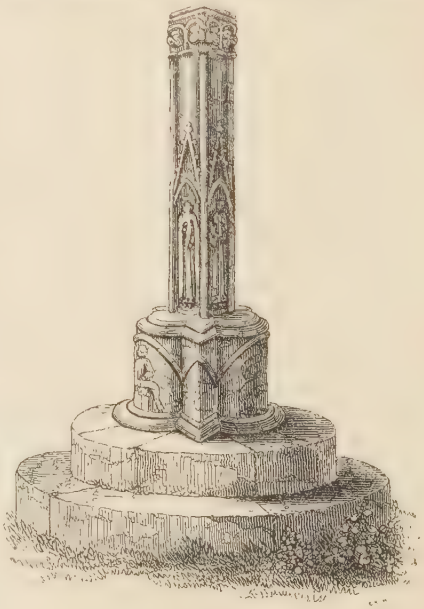
The tower-arch was built in 1611, when the tower, into which it opens, was erected by Sir Thomas Spencer. In the chapel is deposited the old Norman font, rescued by the present vicar, thirty years ago, from the adjoining farm-yard; in the south aisle is the Perpendicular font, now in use, with a modern foot; it is said to have come from St. Michael's church, Oxford, and was presented by Mr. Alderman Fletcher.

Sir Thomas Spencer did not only erect the tower, (the masonry of which is remarkable for the exactness of its courses and the truth and finish of the work,) but he also built the chapel before-mentioned (the burial-place of his family, hence called the Spencer Aisle), and contributed to the south porch, which has within it a plastered cornice of scroll-work of the date of James I.;

[n] This sculpture was discovered some years since secreted under the floor of a house in the parish of St. Peter's-in-the-East, in Oxford, near St. Edmund's Hall, purchased by Alderman Fletcher, and given to this Church.

the inner doorway is late Norman. Sir Thomas did so much to the Church in other respects, as to make it difficult to say, in many parts of the interior and exterior, what are the dates of their architecture respectively. It seems probable that all the Early English work was completed in the time of that great instaurator of churches and church discipline, Bishop Grosthead, who came to the See of Lincoln in 1235, and who soon after compelled the abbey of Ensham to convert their *capella* de Erdynton into a *Vicaria perpetua*. The Institution Rolls at Lincoln will shew, not only Grosthead's interference at Yarnton with the monks of Ensham, but that it was his practice to make all the monasteries do their duty by their churches.

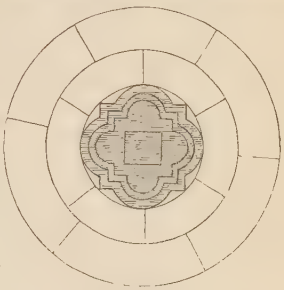
The Spencer aisle contains, besides mural tablets, a bedstead monument of Sir William Spencer, the first of the Spencers of Yarnton, being third son of Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, who bought this manor of the Durants, of Cottesmore, Rutlandshire, for the settlement of this son: it also contains a monument of the last of the family, the second Sir Thomas Spencer, exhibiting the statues of Sir Thomas and Lady Spencer, their only son William, and four daughters, who, by the death of that son, became co-heiresses, and ultimately possessors each of a fourth share of this estate, from whom the property was purchased by the Dashwood family, one-fourth share (that of Jane, who had married Robert Spencer, Earl of Tiviot, brother of the Earl of Sunderland, killed at Newbury fight, 1643) not having been sold with the rest of this property.



Cross Yarnton Church-yard

There is a curious Early cross in the church-yard,

which may be cited in further evidence of the ancient connection between this church and the abbey of Ensham, for at Ensham there is a cross of the same form and character, and sculptured much in the same manner: the upper half of the shaft at Yarnton is missing, that at Ensham is complete. Between the crosses at Ensham and Yarnton there were, within the memory of man, others at and near Cassington, (Cassington, like Yarnton, having formerly been a *capella* and afterwards a *Vicaria* of Ensham Abbey,) at each of which crosses, on solemn processions, the abbot and monks were wont to perform the appointed services.



Plan of Cross.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Yarnton, a village four miles from Woodstock, and nearly the same from Oxford, was originally called Eardungtun, a name which Somner in his Dictionary translates *dwelling town*, and illustrates by Eardung-hus, dwelling-house,—Eardung-stow, dwelling-place. This name has been variously moulded in different records into Erdintune (as in the Ensham abbey charter), Eardington and thon, Aerdinton, Ardington, Hardintone, Yearingtone, Yarington, Yarnton. It is singular that the name of the village of Erdington, in the parish of Aston, juxta Birmingham, has also, by the same sort of process, been changed into Yarnton. Its capital mansion-house, the property of the able, upright, and benevolent Earl Howe, is called in the Index Villaris (ed. 1751) Yarnton Hall; it also bears its old name of Erdington Hall. The farmers of Yarnton, Oxfordshire, in turning their cattle into the meads of the parish, distinguish them by the letter E and not Y, that is, by the initial of Eardungtun and not of Yarnton.

With respect to the descent of the manor and landed property of the parish, it will be best to throw events into chronological order.

A.D. 1005. King Ethelred confirmed the grant of Ethelmar, or Ailmer, earl of Cornwall, to the abbey of Eynesham, which grant, *inter*

alia, consisted of 10 mansions of common field at *Erdintune*. It is added, that for these mansions Ailmer had given his kinsman Godwin 5 mansions at *Stodeley* and 10 at *Cestertune*.

A.D. 1072. Upon the death of Wulwin, bishop of Dorchester, Remigius, a monk of Fescamp, and follower of the Norman William, succeeded, and thinking Dorchester too insignificant a place for his See, determined to transfer it to Lincoln.

A.D. 1091. Remigius, having effected his purpose, wished to obtain Slatford (Sleaford) of the monks of St. Mary, Stow, near Gainsborough, for his residence, where he afterwards built a palace; he therefore gave the monks of Stow, Ensham abbey, and, *inter alia*, Yarnton, as a compensation for what they had surrendered, or rather he incorporated them, being Benedictines, with their Elder Brethren of Ensham. To effect all this, Remigius (being one of the king's commissioners under the Inquisition to take an account of the Saxon property in these parts) contrived to insert his own name into the Doomsday record, as owner of Yarnton (*Hardintone*), and then dealt with it as his own, and consequently as land which he had a right to exchange in this way; he died soon afterwards.

A.D. 1092. Robert Bloet succeeded to the bishopric of Lincoln, a firm friend of the monks of Ensham, in whose abbey he ordered his bowels to be buried. By his powerful patronage the monks of Ensham again became possessed of Yarnton, and all their other property; they were restored, A.D. 1109, by the grant of King Henry I.

A.D. 1123. Bishop Bloet died.

A.D. 1154. Henry II. seized the manor of Yarnton, and gave it to Bernard de St. Valery (de Sancto Valerico), who, like Remigius, was a Norman and a king's favourite. He attended Richard I. to Palestine, and fell at the siege of Acre.

A.D. 1190. Thomas de St. Valery succeeded his father, but not without opposition from the monks of Ensham.

A.D. 1206. There was a trial by jury whether *Yarnton* was the lay-fee of Thomas de St. Valery, or the Frank Almoigne of Ensham abbey. The abbey gained nothing by the verdict, as appears by the sequel.

A.D. 1219. This Thomas died.

A.D. 1224. The earl of Dreux, a French nobleman, of the blood royal of France, had livery of Yarnton, as having married Annora, daughter of Thomas de St. Valery.

A.D. 1227. All the earl of Dreux's property was forfeited to king Henry III., as adhering to his enemies beyond seas; he died soon after in France.

A.D. 1229. Henry III. having seized the earl's property, gave it to his brother, the earl of Cornwall, first for custody, but afterwards by donation; the grant is dated A.D. 1229.

A.D. 1272. The earl of Cornwall died in this year; he was a firm and faithful crusader, and afterwards made king of the Romans.

A.D. 1281. Edmund, son of the earl of Cornwall, succeeded to Yarnton, and the rest of his father's possessions, and soon after, in fulfilment of his father's intentions, founded the Cistercian monastery of Rewley, near Oxford, and endowed it, *inter alia*, with the manor of Yarnton.

It is to be observed, that in all these successions to the property of Yarnton, the rights of the abbey of Ensham had been constantly disregarded. Although every fresh transfer had produced new appeals to justice, and although abbot after abbot had prosecuted the cause of his convent, still the property continued to descend wrongfully, and no sooner had Yarnton been annexed to the neighbouring abbey of Rewley, than the abbot of Ensham again had recourse to the king's court at Westminster. Without entering upon the pleadings before the Justices in Eyre, at Oxford, 13 Edward 1. (A.D. 1285), it will be enough for the present purpose to state the end of this long litigation, or rather of this system of violence and oppression. The abbots of Ensham and Rewley at length came to terms, and entered into a composition. The deed of agreement is dated A.D. 1294. By virtue of this compact, Rewley was to continue in possession of all the Yarnton land, but was to pay great tithes throughout its extent to the abbey of Ensham, and small tithes to the vicar of Yarnton; an important concession, when it is remembered that, as a Cistercian monastery, Rewley was exempt from all such payments. After this the property experienced no more vicissitudes, and continued peaceably in the possession of the Cistercians, till the suppression of their monastery under Henry VIII.

A.D. 1536. The Cistercian abbey of Rewley was dissolved.

A.D. 1538. The manor of Yarnton was in the hands of Henry VIII., in which year the king's accountant returned a statement of his receipts and disbursements to the Augmentation Office, together with a list of the tenants, and their respective rents and holdings.

A.D. 1540. The manor is found in the hands of Geo. Owen, Esq.,

of Merton College, the king's physician, in consideration of his professional services, and of the sum £676 by him paid into the Court of Augmentation.

A.D. 1544. John Durrant, Esq., of Cotsmore, Rutlandshire, bought it for his son.

A.D. 1575, 1579. In each of these years there are entries in the parish registers of Yarnton, shewing the residence of the Durrants in the parish.

A.D. 1584. In and from this year the baptisms, burials, and marriages of the Spencers begin, after which the name of Durrant ceases. Yarnton was probably bought of the Durrants, by Sir John Spencer of Althorp, for his third son, Sir William Spencer, sometime between 1579 and 1584. The Spencers possessed the property from 1584 to 1714, about 130 years.

A.D. 1684. The second Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart., died, his only son having died before him, when (as before stated) three out of his four daughters agreed to sell their three-fourths of the property to Sir Robert Dashwood, Bart., Lady Spencer their mother enjoying it for her life; the remaining quarter was sold by the representatives of the fourth daughter, Lady Teviot, to Benjamin Swete, Esq.

A.D. 1712. Lady Spencer died, when the above purchasers respectively came into possession, the one of three-fourths, the other of one fourth of the property which belonged to the Spencers.

A.D. 1843 This ancient estate still continues three-fourths in the hands of the Dashwood family, and the remaining fourth in the heirs and successors of Benjamin Swete, Esq. The descent of the manor has been thus traced from 1005 to 1843, nearly 840 years.

Vaughan Thomas, Vicar.

BEGBROKE.

PATRONS.
SIR GEORGE DASHWOOD,
(THREE TURNS.)
BRASENOSE COLLEGE,
OXFORD,
(ONE TURN.)

St. Michael.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	21	4	by	14	9
Nave	33	0	by	17	9
Tower	10	10	by	11	10
Walls	3	0	thick		

A SMALL Church, consisting of Nave and Chancel, with a western tower: originally Norman, with many modern alterations. Considerable improvements were made about the year 1820; the windows in particular were all enlarged, or renewed, and those on the north side of the nave first made. There is some good stained glass.

The CHANCEL is Norman, has a small modern Norman east window, filled with stained glass by Williment, and two on the south side: one has a round moulding to the arch and shafts, the capitals of which are sculptured with rude foliage; this is filled

with shields of arms. The Altar platform is raised one step, and there is a modern Norman arcade of wood as a reredos: the roof is concealed by a flat ceiling with ribs.

The Chancel-arch is Norman, with zigzag and embattled mouldings; on the west side are two ornamented shafts under a plain tablet, which is continued to the side walls. A beam seems to have crossed the arch below the soffit to support a rood. This arch is horse-shoed from a settlement in the foundation, commencing probably at an early period; the courses of stone are not level, and there are considerable fissures in the arch, though concealed by plaster.

The Nave has modern windows, in imitation of a good Perpendicular example in the cloisters of Christ Church, Oxford. The roof is of high pitch and open, with a tie-beam and collar-beam. The south door is good Norman, with zigzag mouldings round the arch, supported by a recessed shaft on each side, one ornamented with the spiral moulding, the other with the chevron; the abacus on the capitals is continued for some way along the walls, as a string or tablet.

The Font is plain, octagonal, Perpendicular, no ornament remaining but three or four quatrefoils on the stem: it now stands in the tower, but was several years in the rectory garden, having been removed there to make way for a modern Norman basin, which stands in the Chancel, and is still used. The old font was removed from its proper position opposite the door, at a *restoration* of the Church, about the year 1828.

The Tower is of three stages, diminishing with a saddle-back roof; it seems to be originally Norman, with some Decorated windows inserted; it has no staircase and no tower-arch; the door is plain, round-headed. The three gables of tower, nave, and chancel, have a very good effect together.

Near the south door there is a stone coffin with a coped lid, said to be the Founder's tomb. There is the base of a cross in the Church-yard; it is octangular, on a square plinth.

W. T. Parkins.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

This parish is memorable for a fortification, commonly called Round Castle, which is situate indeed near Begbroke Church on the west, but is in the parish of Bladon, and Lineham Barrow, between it and Pudlicot, a seat of the antient family of Lacies. On what particular occasion they were made we have no history to inform us, but in general we think it probable that they were made by the Danes, because they are both in figure round. The Annals of Morgan tells us that there was a fight in this place, A.D. 1069, but mention not between what parties[o].

At the time of forming the Doomsday survey, Bechebroc, as it is there written, was held under Roger de Laci, and was valued at £4. From the Rotuli Hundredorum it appears, that in the time of Edward I., Richard de Lions held the fourth part of the township of "Bekebrock of Richard of Wylamscote;" he also held in demesne half a caracute of land with the advowson of the Church[p].

RECTORES ECCL'IÆ DE BEGBROOK COM. OXON.

[Ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 415.]

1231. Serlo capellanus . . . ad pres. Rog. de Leonibus. Rot. Hug. Well. pont. 23.

1249. Will. de Bathon capellan . . . ad pres. Rog. de Lenns laici. Rot. Rob. Grosthead, anno 15.

Nich. de Lyonns acol. pres. per Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per mort. Hen. Rot. Dalderby, pont. 4.

2. non. Mart. 1320. Will. Malesovres p'b'r pres. per Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per resign. Nich'i de Lyonns nomine permutationis quam idem Nich'us cum eccl'ia de Foxcote quam præfatus Will'us titulo institutionis prius tenuerat. Reg. Burgwersh.

4. kal. Jun. 1334. Will. de Pershore cl'icus pres. per dom. Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per resign. d'ni Tho. de Stoke. Ibid.

7. id. Maii 1336. Adam de Assheby canonicorum p'b'r pres. per dom. Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per institut. Jacobi de Kyngeston ad eccl. de Rothewell. Ibid.

1409. Joh. Chetwode miles fuit patronus eccl'iæ de Begbroke. Reg. Repyngdon.

1431. Tho. Chetwode miles fuit patronus eccl'iæ de Bekkebroke. Ibid.

22. Sept. 1447. Tho. Chetwode miles patronus eccl'iæ de Bekkebroke. Reg. Alnewyk.

20. Apr. 1499. Dominus Ric. Sutton p'b'r pres. per Fulconem Wodehall arm. . . . per mort. mag. Galfr. Tydder. Reg. Smith.

[o] Beauties of England.

[p] Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred, p. 3.

BLADON.

PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. Martin.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

The Church was rebuilt in 1804, and is an attempt at Gothic.

In this parish are the remains of a house of the 15th century, with two bold round chimneys, which appear to be of the same age, although the tradition of the village assigns them to a much earlier period.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Bladon, a village famous only for their loyal parson, Dr. Matthew Griffith, who for his zeal to the established Church, and regal prerogative, endured seven violent assaults, and five imprisonments, but lived to the restoration of Charles II., and having recovered his living of St. Magdalen, Fish-street, and his rectory here, died at this last, Oct. 14, 1665, ætat 68. He fought in defence of Basing-house, and his daughter courageously lost her life there[q].

A vignette of the demolished Church of Bladon is given in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 5.

[q] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 377.

WOODSTOCK.

PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.
A CHAPELRY TO
THE RECTORY OF BLADON.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

The West Porch

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	39	0	by	19	10
Nave	70	0	by	26	0
South Aisle.	70	0	by	9	0
West Porch	9	2	by	8	2
West Wall	3	0			
Wall of Porch	1	2			

The Chancel is originally Decorated, the east window of five lights, with mullions crossing in the head; the Altar-screen, of Grecian wood-work: the north wall, modern, with no windows: the south wall has two good small Perpendicular buttresses, and a good three-light Perpendicular window, with a flat arch: there is a stone bench on each side. The roof is Elizabethan and bad.

The Nave on the north side was rebuilt by public subscription in 1785. It is modern plain work, with three large plain round arches and windows, and a large gallery: it exhibits a melancholy

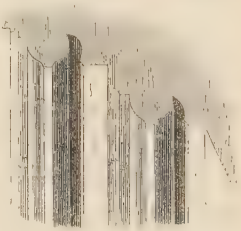
and most ungainly contrast to the south side, which forms the original part of the building. On the south side are five Early English arches on plain round pillars, with good caps, having foliage and heads intermixed, the bases octagon. The clerestory windows are Perpendicular, of three lights, square-headed.

Capital on South Side of Nave.

The pewing, both in the galleries and body of the Chapel, is as bad as can be. In 1678, Lord Lovelace erected a gallery for the Corporation upon the scite of the rood-loft. The old half of the roof on the south side is good Perpendicular work: the pulpit has some Perpendicular panels. The font is a modern marble pillar and basin. The old font, which is a good Decorated one, is at present in the garden of Mr. North, but it is hoped that it will speedily be restored to its proper place in the Church.

The western gallery has some Elizabethan carving in front, and the posts have caps of that age. The west door is Decorated, with a good suite of mouldings, the roll, ogee, and hollow, the labels terminated by heads, partly cut off by the porch. The west window is Decorated, of five lights, with quatrefoils in the head; the arch flat, segmental, pointed, with a plain label terminated by heads.

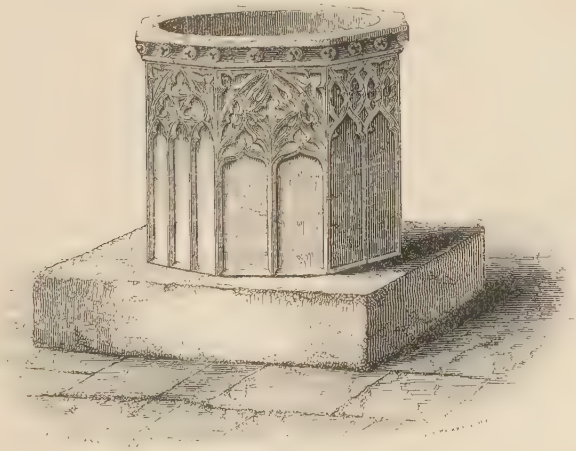
In the south aisle are two Early English windows of two lights, foliated, with a quatrefoil in the head; the mouldings inside very good, the outside plain; the dripstone is at some distance from the head of the window: there are the remains of a rich Norman doorway.



Mouldings of S. Window.

The Porch is very low under the west window; it has a wide flat Perpendicular outer door, with a small niche over it in the parapet; the buttresses diagonal, with good terminations; the roof is of stone, quite plain, without ribs or groins; it has two Perpendicular windows of two lights on each side. The Tower, modern. I.H.P.

Interior. WINDOW ON THE SOUTH SIDE Exterior



THE FONT

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Saxon Vuberτoc, q. d. woody place; where King Ethelred A.D. 1009, held an assembly of the states and enacted laws. Here was a magnificent royal mansion built by Henry I., who added to it a spacious park, enclosed with a stone wall, and according to John Ross, the first in England; several villages were destroyed to make it, and it was seven miles round, and made the 14th of Henry I. The king had here a menagerie of wild beasts sent him by foreign princes[r].

Through the park runs the Akemanstreet, entering it at Wotton gate, and going out at Mapleton well. Its course is from Alchester to Bath; it passes near Stunsfield pavement and Wilcot, and is very fair for near a mile through a long lane, south-west from Ramsden, through Wichewood forest.

A.D. 1123. King Henry I., at Christmas, held a council at Woodstock, where, three days after the Epiphany, riding out with Robert, Bishop of Lincoln, at a distance from all other company, the bishop fell from his horse, and being carried home speechless, died the following day.

Our historians relate that Henry II., was enamoured of Rosamond Clifford, a lady of such exquisite beauty as to drive all other women out of the prince's thoughts, whereby she acquired the common name of "*Rosa Mundi*," the rose of the world. In order to conceal her from his jealous consort, he built in this palace a labyrinth with the most intricate turnings and windings backwards and forwards, now entirely gone[s]. (See the account of Godstow, p. 103.)

A paved bath, or large clear beautiful spring, under an old wall, goes by the name of Rosamond's well, and a spot in the park, on the south-west side of the palace, is still called her bower, which literally signifies only a chamber.

Henry II. was frequently at Woodstock. Edmund, second son of Edward I., was born here and took his name from it, and so was his brother, Edward the black prince, and Thomas, duke of Gloucester; the latter was also surnamed from it[t].

A.D. 1163. Henry II. The king held a great council at Woodstock, where he confirmed the foundation of Nun-Eaton, com. War. Henry II.

[r] Malmsb. v. 91.

[s] Camden, vol. i. p. 286.

[t] For a variety of minute particulars respecting the residence of the kings at Woodstock, see Kennett, vol. i. p. 63, 117, 119, 120, 124, 133, 164, 175, 179, 182, 199, 238, 309, 311, 321, 354, 410; vol. ii. p. 16, 113, 405.

here received Rhys, Prince of Wales, when, in 1163, he came to do homage.

A.D. 1170. Prince Henry, by his father's order, crowned king at Westminster, on the 14th of the calends of July, kept his Christmas at Woodstock, to which place, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, was coming to him; but was stopped by express messengers at Southwarc, on the 15th of the calends of January.

A.D. 1178. The old king was this summer at Woodstock, where, on the 8th of the ides of August, he knighted Jeffrey, his younger son, duke of Britain.

A.D. 1186. In September the king was at Woodstock, where, in his royal chapel within the park, William, king of Scotland, with great solemnity married Ermengard, daughter of the Lord Beaumont, on Friday, the nones of September.

A.D. 1207. King John was at Woodstock in this 9th of his reign, where, on the 5th day of August, he confirmed several donations to the abbey of Neth, in the county of Glamorgan.

A.D. 1235. Henry III. The king spent a great part of this year at Woodstock, where, on the 24th of July, he confirmed the endowments of the nunnery of Tarente in com. Dorset. And on November 3rd. he ratified the charters and privileges of the priory of Daventre in com. Northamp.

A.D. 1238. Henry III. The king was at Woodstock about the feast of St. Matthew, where a pretended priest, feigning himself mad, got in by night at a window of the king and queen's bedchamber, with an intent of murder, but a discovery and noise being made by a devout and noble woman, Margaret Byset, the fellow was apprehended and torn in pieces by horses at Coventry, or at Oxford.

A.D. 1256. At the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the king came to Woodstock, and invited thither Alexander, king of Scots, and most of the English nobility, whom he entertained there with great variety and pomp.

A.D. 1330. Edward III. This country was perhaps no less affected with that patent of the king, which granted that a flagon of wine in Oxford should be sold but one halfpenny dearer than in London. But they were most concerned in the honor and the joy for the birth of the king's eldest son Edward, at Woodstock, on Friday, June 15, at ten in the morning, whose nurse was Joan de Oxford, to whom the king after-

wards gave a pension of £10 yearly; the rocker was Maud Plumpton, to whom was given an annual pension of 10 marks.

A.D. 1354. These parts were much concerned in the joy and solemnity occasioned by Queen Philippa's delivery of a 7th son, born at Woodstock, on January 6th, who being at the font named Thomas, bore the sirname of this his place of nativity, afterwards earl of Bucks, and duke of Gloucester. The king to express his joy and affection had solemn justs and tournaments at Woodstock, to which the nobility resorted in great numbers.

A.D. 1459. Henry VI. The king by letters patent granted to George, Archbishop of York, in consideration of his many faithful services, the manors of Wodestocke, &c., &c., with their several members and hamlets, as also the hundred of Wotton, and the chattels of all felons, fugitives, condemned and outlawed persons, within the said liberties to hold during his life.

THE CUSTOME OF THE MANOR OF WOODSTOCKE.

First, the sayd Mannor of Woodstocke, with all the Members thereunto belonging, is an auntient Demaine, and so hath been knowne reputed, and used, time out of man's remembrance.

And there belongeth to the sayd mannor seaven severall Villages, or Parishes, which are commonly called The Demaines of Woodstocke, viz., Hordeley, Wootton, Combe, Stonisfield, Hanborough, Bladon, and old Woodstocke.

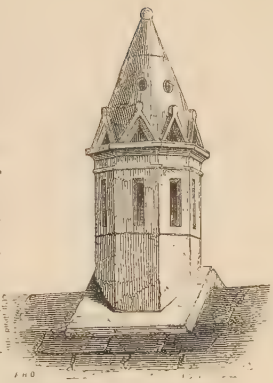
Which sayd Mannor, and other aforesaid Members thereof, have such Lyberties and Priviledges as other auntient Demaine Lands have used, and by the Lawes of this Realme ought to have [u].

Elizabeth, when princess, was imprisoned here, and when queen resided much here, and was a considerable benefactress to the town. The town of Woodstock was chiefly supported by the resort of our kings and queens, on failure of which a statute was passed, 18th of Elizabeth, to make it a staple of wool. The old mansion-house was demolished in the civil wars; it stood on a flat spot, just within the park gate, opposite the great water, and now planted with sycamores and other trees.

There is an old house in the lower part of the town, which is com-

[u] Out of Bishop Barlow's MSS. in Bibl. Bodl. num. 9, p. 125. ap. Leland's Itin., vol. viii. p. 40.

monly said to have been part of the palace, but neither the situation nor the appearances agree with this vague tradition; it is situated in that part of the town called Old Woodstock, but the site of the palace was within the boundary of the park; part of it is, however, of the fourteenth century, and it has retained one of its old fire-places, with a plain segmental arch, and the roll-moulding over it, and its chimney, which is a very elegant one, having a spiral termination, and openings for the smoke in the sides.



Chimney, Old Woodstock.

The park and manor continued in the crown till the 4th of Queen Anne, when she by act of parliament granted the honour and manor of Woodstock, and hundred of Wootton, to John, Duke of Marlborough, and his heirs, as a reward of his eminent and unparalleled services, as they were deservedly styled by the voice of the nation in parliament, and for perpetuating the memory thereof. The field of this glorious victory being at or near Blenheim, that magnificent house, erected at the public expense by Sir John Vanburgh, within this manor of Woodstock, "as a monument of his glorious actions," to use the words of the act of parliament, is called the house or castle of Blenheim, in which his conquests are further recorded in beautiful tapestry. It is to belong to one of the Duke's descendants, male or female for ever, who are to bear the arms of Marlborough, and by way of homage, present the sovereign every year with a standard, in commemoration of the battle of Blenheim, August 2nd [x].

Woodstock is a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladon; the original place of worship was a chantry, founded in honour of our Lady by King John. At the dissolution, Henry VIII. granted the Church to the corporation of the town; but the patronage is now in the gift of the Marlborough family. In the tower there are eight bells, with mellow and pleasing chimes, which go every four hours, and have a different tune for every day in the week [y].

[x] Continuation by Gough to Camden's Britannia, vol. i. p. 296, 297.

[y] Beauties of England, vol. xii. p. 383.

WOOTTON.

PATRONS.
WARDEN AND FELLOWS
OF NEW COLLEGE.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A PLAIN Church, with one aisle on the north side, and a Perpendicular tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is of the Decorated style, but very plain and poor; the east window of four lights, with a segmental head; the Chancel-arch pointed, plain, with shafts, the caps of which have the roll-moulding.

The NAVE has four arches on the north side, very plain and clumsy work, Early English, pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered, with plain labels: on the south side the windows are of two lights, Early English, with pointed trefoil-heads; two of them have square Perpendicular dripstones inserted over them. The doorway of the porch is good Early English. The clerestory and roof are late Perpendicular.

The Tower is plain Perpendicular.

The Font is plain octagon, Early English.

The Aisle has Decorated windows and a door, tolerably good, but rather clumsy; the side windows are of two lights, with a quatrefoil in the head; the east window is of three lights, with rather peculiar tracery.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1226. 10, 11, Henry III. Ela, countess of Sarum, widow of William, earl of Sarum, did within this year present a clerk to the church of Wootton, county of Oxon[z].

A.D. 1291. 19, 20, Edward I. The general[a] taxation of Church dignities and benefices was this year completed and registered: the

[z] Rog. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 1. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 282.

[a] On occasion of the pope's granting the king the tenth of all spiritualities for six years *in subsidium terræ sanctæ.*

abbot of Oseney and prior of St. Catherine's, appointed collectors for this diocese of Lincoln, deputed Ralph, rector of Wotton, and Richard, rector of Gilling, to be taxers in the archdeaconries of Oxford, Bedford and Bucks, excepting the deanery of Rotland [b].

A.D. 1310. 3, 4, Edward II. An inquisition was taken, July 19, in the neighbouring parish of Wendlebury, wherein it appeared that Laurence de Preston held two knights fees in Preston, Hacklington, Horton, Pidington, Quenton, and Wootton [c].

A.D. 1396. 19, 20, Richard III. John Clompe of Borstall, and Agnes his wife, daughter of John Howes, granted to Thomas Palmer of Wootton, and Joan his wife, one messuage to curtilage adjoining, in the village of Borstall, which fell to them on the death of John Howes [d].

A.D. 1440. By patent, dated 2nd August, 18th Henry VI., p. 3. the king gave the abbot and convent of Bruern, the advowson of the parish church of Wootton, by Woodstock, with licence to appropriate it [e].

A.D. 1459. 37, 38, Henry VI., the king, by letters patent, granted to George, archbishop of York, in consideration of his many faithful services, the manors of Wodestocke, Handburgh, Wootton, and Stonesfeld, with their several members and hamlets, as also the hundred of Wootton, and the chattels of all felons, fugitives, condemned and outlawed persons, within the said liberties, to hold during his life [f].

A.D. 1647, the advowson of this living was settled upon New College, by Robert Pinke, warden of that society; the person presented to be a fellow of the College, not holding a benefice at the time of presentation [g].

[b] Kennett, vol. i. p. 445.
[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 512.
[d] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 180.
[e] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 241, 404.
[f] Rog. Dods. MS. vol. lxxv. p. 152. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 405.
[g] Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred, p. 25.

GLYMPTON.

PATRON.
E. WAY, ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

The greater part of this Church is modern, and very bad, but the Chancel-arch has been preserved, and is good transition Norman, pointed, with shafts in recessed nooks, having cushion caps and the star-moulding on the abacus. The tower-arch at the west end is also transition Norman, but the tower itself is late Perpendicular. In the Chancel a fine monument of Maude Tesdale, 1616, two figures kneeling at a faldstool; it retains some of the old painting and gilding. The roof of the nave is plain Perpendicular. There are some good old pews with panels; they have Decorated patterns, but the mouldings are late; some of them are turned into enclosed pews by being built upon, and having doors of deal inserted.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Thomas Tesdale, Esq., resided here, and by his last will, dated 30 June, 1610, bequeathed £5,000 to purchase lands and tenements for the maintenance of certain fellows and scholars, to be chosen from the free-school at Abingdon, into any College in the University of Oxford; Archbishop Abbot, and other great men, with the mayor and burgesses of Abingdon, being made trustees, who, after some difficulty, settled them in Pembroke College [h].

The said Thomas Tesdale was liberally beneficial to Pembroke College, and to the free-school at Abingdon, and his wife Maude, who survived him six years, was a woman of a very charitable disposition, and is said in her epitaph to have lovingly anointed Jesus Christ in his poore members at Glympton, Charlbury, Ascott, and other places [i].

There is a very curious spring, which riseth in a wood about a mile south-west of the Church, in a place where there are stones in the form of cockles. The ebullitions of it are three, and the most southern makes a humming noise, like that of an empty bottle held with the mouth against the wind [k].

[h] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 180.

[i] Beauties of England and Wales, p. 456.

[k] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 380.

KIDDINGTON.

PATRON. VISCOUNT DILLON.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.

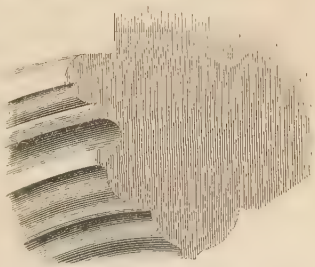
HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	18	4	by	14	4
Nave	45	0	by	23	0
South Chapel . . .	15	6	by	14	4
Porch	8	4	by	7	6

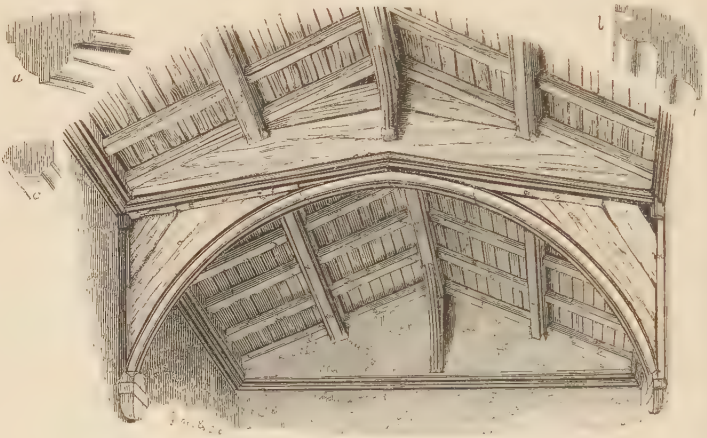
This Church consists of a Chancel, Nave, and south Chapel, or semi-transept, a western tower, and a south porch; it is mostly Decorated, with some Norman portions.

The Chancel has been longer; it has a Norman Chancel-arch at the east end, filled up with a Perpendicular window under it: the present Chancel-arch is Decorated, with short shafts springing from square piers, which have good mouldings, and a hollow moulding filled with ball-flowers as a stringcourse: on the south side of the Chancel-arch is a small Decorated trefoil window, with a low seat under it. In the north pier of the arch a Decorated piscina, with a trefoil head: the walls of the Chancel are Norman, with a bold corbel-table.

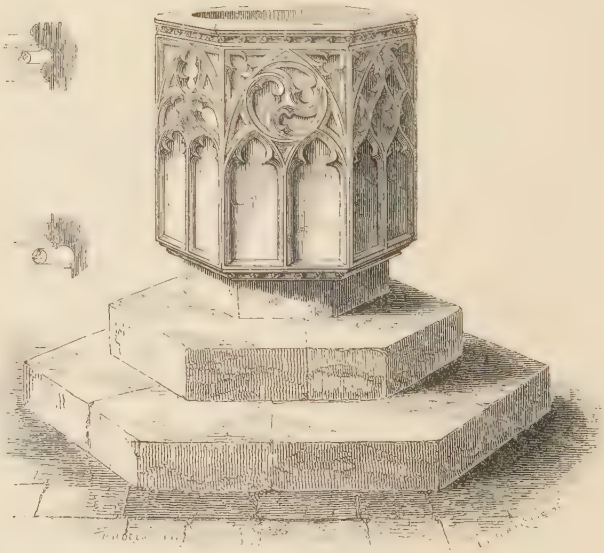
The Nave on the north side has the walls mostly blank, but there is a good Decorated square-headed window. On the south side is a Decorated arch, opening into a large chapel or semi-transept; and the south door, which is plain, but well moulded, with a plain porch attached to the west side of the chapel; also a Decorated square-headed window. There is another small Decorated piscina and bracket on the west side in the north corner of the nave, where an Altar has stood. The rood-loft stairs remain under the north window,



Moulding of the South Doorway.



Roof of the South Chapel, c. 1350



The Font, c 1350

on the west side of the Chancel-arch; and part of the rood-screen remains, with good Decorated mouldings in oak.

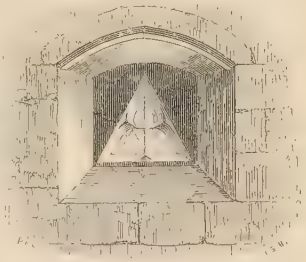
The Font is good Decorated, hexagon, with panelling like patterns of the tracery of Decorated windows on each face, and good mouldings.

Stringcourse, c 1350.

The south chapel has a Decorated open timber roof, but of very plain work; there is a bold Decorated stringcourse, with ball-flowers, all round this chapel, and a Decorated square-headed window on the east side.

The Tower is Decorated, small, and very plain, looks as if intended for a spire: the arch is small and plain.

At the west end of the nave are two small triangular Decorated windows, widely splayed within, and with a segmental inner arch.



Window at the west end of the Nave

EXTRACTS FROM WARTON'S HISTORY OF KIDDINGTON, 4to. 1783.

Kiddington, or Cuddington, anciently and properly according to its British etymology written Cudenton or The Town among the Woods, is a small village pleasantly situated on the river Glym, twelve miles from the city of Oxford to the north-west, four from Woodstock, and seven from Cheping-Norton, market towns in this county. It is divided by the river Glym into the upper and lower town, or Over-Kiddington and Nether-Kiddington: the first is in the Hundred of Chadlington, the second in that of Wootton. Both parts contain not more than forty houses.

The Church, situated in Lower Kiddington, is said by Browne Willis, not always successful in his laborious investigations of patron-saints, to be dedicated to St. Nicholas: but the annual wake is celebrated on the Sunday following the festival of St. Peter.

The seating of the body of the Church is probably the same that was there before the Reformation; consisting, as was antiently the fashion, of a regular arrangement of plain benches, low and open, without distinction, and on one plan, running at right angles from either side.

Moveable stools were sometimes used. Pews, according to the modern use and idea, which destroy the beauty of our parochial Churches, were not known till long after the Reformation. They would have obstructed processions, and other ceremonies, of the Romish religion.

This Church, in common with most other parish Churches, retains marks of the sordid devotion of its possessors under the dominion of Cromwell. But many of those disgraces to divine worship which Calvinism had left behind, have been lately removed by a generous benefactor, with the addition of new improvements and ornaments. When a country Church has been beautified, to use the technical phrase on this occasion, it is customary for the grateful topographer minutely to display the judicious application of some late pious legacy, and to dwell with singular satisfaction on the modern decorations of the communion-table, consisting of semicircular groups of bloated cherubs, tawdry festoons, gingerbread pilasters, flaming urns, and a newly-gilded decalogue, flanked by a magnificent Moses and Aaron, in scarlet and purple, the work of some capital artist, who unites the callings of painter, plumber, and glazier, in the next dirty market-town. I do not regret, that the present edifice, which yet has not been without its friends, can boast none of these embellishments.

Just within the entrance of the great south door, which has a spacious porch, there is a brass plate on the floor, the only ancient monument in the Church, exhibiting the effigy of a priest habited, with this inscription in the Gothic character.

Orate pro anima magistri Walteri Goodere quondam rectoris istius Ecclesie, qui obiit decimo octavo Septembris Anno Dom. MDXIII. Cujus anime propitietur Deus.

Above the head, on a brass tablet also, are his arms almost obliterated, which I think I have seen in some drawings from the windows of the stately old mansion house, now destroyed, of the family of Walter, at Sarsden, in this neighbourhood, viz. Gules, a Fess between two Cheverons vairy, Argent and Blue. Near it are the marks of another brass plate, which has long ago disappeared. Monuments of brass in our Churches, notwithstanding the boasted proverbial durability of such memorials, have proved far more perishable than those of stone. But these losses are not so much owing to time, as to fanaticism, a more powerful, at least a more furious destroyer.

A catalogue of the Rectors of the Church, from 1232 to 1782, is given by Warton, pp. 9—13.

In that division of the parish, called the upper town, is the ruin of an old parochial cross, containing part of a shaft and base, built of stone. It is still known by the name of the cross. I know of no county which has more frequent or more curious remains of parish crosses than Oxfordshire. To this circumstance, the plenty of stone, with which the whole county abounds, greatly contributed.

Among the fields and woods of this parish, detached at almost half a mile's distance from Over-Kiddington, to the south-west, is a single farm-house called Asterley, which also denominates a manor. Here was once the parish of Asterley, of which the memory now scarcely subsists in tradition. But there is a large field, called Chapel-breke, now covered with bushes and high trees, in which the Church, long since decayed or destroyed, may probably be supposed to have stood. The inequalities of the ground seem also to denote the site of an ancient and considerable mansion-house. Here have been dug up pieces of the mouldings of lancet windows, and other fragments of antique masonry in stone. Other buildings, or houses, seem also to have been once standing hereabout. The Church, called the parochial Church of Asterley in the Registers of Lincoln, was dedicated to St. Peter. It was a Rectory, and was valued in 1291 at seven marcs and a half, and is recited under the Deanery of Cheping-Norton.

In the year 1466, and on the twenty-second day of October, John Chedworth, bishop of Lincoln, judicially seated in the monastery of the Dominican friers at Oxford, united and incorporated the church of Asterley with that of Kiddington.

A catalogue of the Rectors of Asterley is also given by Warton, pp. 21—25.

An interesting account of the ancient British, Roman, and Saxon remains, in this parish and neighbourhood, and of various military transactions on this ground, from the sixth to the eleventh century, will be found in Warton, pp. 46—71.

King Offa, about the year 780, gave Kiddington, together with the neighbouring village of Hethrop, to the episcopal priory of Worcester, from which, within a few years, they were both taken away by the Danes, nor were they ever afterwards restored. . . . The Monastery of Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire, also founded by King Offa, had lands or tythes in this parish before the Conquest. . . . At the Conquest, among other fees of Roger de Iveri in this neighbourhood, was a part of the

village of Kiddington. . . . Some lands at Kiddington were of the fee of Earl William Fitzosborne, Earl of Hereford, as appears by Domesday. . . . Soon after the Conquest, about the year 1130, and in the reign of King Henry the First, the Norman family of De Salcey, or Saucey, seem to have become proprietors of the manors of Kiddington and Asterley, with other large estates in the neighbourhood. They presented to the Churches of both places, as early as the years 1221 and 1232, and it is perhaps from the defect of the Lincoln registers, that we do not find much earlier presentations from that family to those benefices. They probably built the old Church of Kiddington: and I am of opinion, that they had a large capital mansion at Asterley, the marks of which yet remain. . . . About the year 1220, Kiddington and Asterley became (by marriage) the inheritance of the family of De Williamscote. . . . In the reign of King Henry VI., the family of Babington (a branch of the Babingtons of Chelwell, in Nottinghamshire), acquiring these estates, appear to have been established in the capital seat at Kiddington. . . . In the year 1613, or thereabout, the Babingtons sold their estate here, that is, the manors of Upper and Lower Kiddington, and the manor of Asterley, with the advowson of the Church of Kiddington, to Sir Henry Browne, Knight, third son of Antony Browne, the first Lord Viscount Montague.

The family of Browne have constantly resided on their estate here, from the beginning of the reign of King James the First. The present mansion-house was for the most part built, or rebuilt, by Sir Henry Browne, the first Baronet, in 1673, on the foundations of the old one, to which belonged a walled park. The situation is remarkably pleasing, on the summit of a gentle semicircular slope, with great advantages of wood, water, and crossing declivities. On altering the windows of an old fashioned dining-room on the west side of the house, about the year 1750, some beautiful armorial shields in painted glass were removed; perhaps the same that were once in the Church. In this house are preserved many valuable and capital portraits of the family of Browne, and their honourable intermarriages, by Cornelius Jansen, and other eminent masters of the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth, James, and Charles the First.

The property in 1840 changed hands again, and is now possessed by M. Ricardo, Esq., who has altered and improved the house both internally and externally.

CASSINGTON.

PATRONS.
DEAN AND CANONS
OF
CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

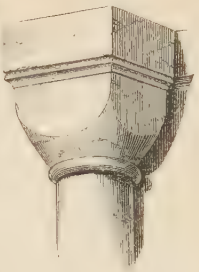
St. Peter's.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	51	6	by	24	4
Tower	21	9	by	16	7
Chancel	18	10	by	16	7

An oblong Church, without aisles, the tower and spire in the centre. The general appearance at first sight is Decorated, but the main structure is Norman. The Chancel has Norman walls and a stone vault groined, with bold round ribs springing

from Norman shafts, with plain cushion caps: the window on the north side is original small Norman; on the south side a Perpendicular square-headed window is inserted: the east window is Decorated, of two lights, evidently inserted in a Norman wall. On the south side of this window, but still in the east wall, is a Decorated double piscina, with a stone shelf and one basin only; on the north side a Decorated bracket. On the outside of the Chancel is a good Norman corbel-table, with masks on some of the corbels. The high-pitched roof remains above the vault.

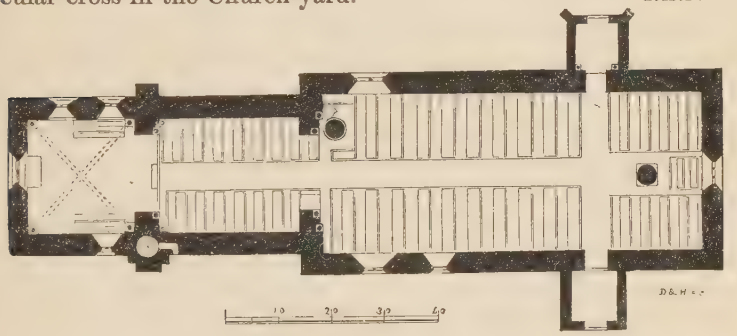


Capital of a Shaft in the Chancel.

Tower—The lower part is Norman, with a plain Norman doorway on the north side: the arches east and west are good Norman; the western arch is richly ornamented, the flat soffit being covered with painting; the eastern arch is plain. A good Decorated spire has been built upon the Norman tower, and an upper story added to the tower itself, the Norman corbel-table being raised to the top of the new part at the springing of the spire. There were some curious paintings on the walls in the inside of this tower and on the timbers of the roof previous to the improvements in 1842; these are now whitewashed over, but sketches of them are preserved among the Society's drawings[1].

[1] Distemper Painting, as it appeared in 1842.—"On the soffit of a Norman arch a series of circular wreaths, from which spring leaves, filling up the external spaces. Within the one in the centre is the Holy Lamb, bearing the cross and banner; then one on a shield, containing the cross of St. George, and another containing the cross of St. Michael; the adjoining ones on each side the monogram I.H.C.; and next to them, at the lower part of each end of the arch, two keys, in saltere, as the emblem of St. Peter, to whom the Church is dedicated. The face of the arch towards the west has been painted with a representation of the last judgment, and on the jamb of a window adjoining, on the south side, is rather an elegant figure of a female, holding in her right hand a cross, and in her left what appears to be the battlements of a tower. This may be intended for a representation of St. Barbara. On the upper part of the south door inside are painted the cross, ladder, spear, and other implements of the Passion, above which are the remains of an angel, with expanded wings, on one side of which are the letters I.H.C., and on the other M.I.A. There are some very imperfect remains on the south wall of the Chancel, which appear to have represented the Annunciation. No part of

The Nave has Norman walls, and three of the original windows; the other three windows are Decorated insertions. The roof has been lowered, and has a flat plaster ceiling: there is a good Norman corbel-table, with a projecting parapet, on both sides. The north porch has an open wooden roof, the outer doorway is transition Norman. The south porch is turned into a vestry; on the inner door in the Church are painted the emblems of the Crucifixion. The west window is Decorated. The font is plain round, probably Norman. On the floor of the nave is a good brass, a cross to the memory of Roger Cheney, and a brass fixed in the wall near the pulpit to Thomas Neale, Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, 1590. There is the base of a Perpendicular cross in the Church-yard. I.H.P.



Ground Plan of Cassington Church

A curious ancient paten is used in the Communion service of this Church. The figures of Adam and Eve are embossed, projecting in high relief in the centre: an embattled wall is introduced as the wall of paradise, within which they are exhibited as partaking of the forbidden fruit. An inscription, now nearly obliterated by frequent rubbing, ran upon a scroll above the figures, the letters V. B. O. are all that can be satisfactorily made out. A remarkable style of letter is introduced in the inscription which encircles the figures; the character of it appears to be Gothic, but so strangely ornamented, that the meaning rests in conjecture. The same letters or words are several times

the painted decoration appears to be of earlier date than the latest part of the fifteenth century. With the exception of the soffit of the arch, the back of the door, and the figure in the window-jamb, all is now too imperfect to make its preservation desirable in the repair of the Church." Communicated by T. Williment, Esq.

repeated, and probably are *Deus Creavit e.*, the last word *eus* being abbreviated. The metal of which this plate is composed is brass [or rather latten], and the little value of the material may account for its preservation. It is fourteen inches and a half in diameter[m].

There is also preserved the centre of another sacred vessel, which probably was an offertory basin, ornamented with two figures, carrying a bunch of grapes on a pole, in allusion to Numbers xiii. 23. It appears to be of the fourteenth century.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1155. Geoffry of Clinton, chamberlain to Henry II., (son of Geoffry of Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer of Henry I., founder of the monastery and castle of Kenilworth, and lord of Cassington,) built the Church of Cassington, on his own fee, at the request of Robert de Chesney, bishop of Lincoln, and of the abbot of Eynsham, about 1155. It was consecrated by the Bishop, and dedicated to St. Peter. The abbey of Eynsham was to find a chaplain or minister, with the advice and consent of Geoffry, the archdeacon. Cassington was before in the parish of St. Mary at Eynsham, and the new Church was given to Eynsham abbey. At the same time it was ordained, that as often as Geoffry de Clinton resided at Cassington with his family, the chaplain of this Church should receive half the oblations coming from his family, "contra capellanos ipsius Galfredi." The said Geoffry also endowed his new Church with one yard land at Cassington, and all the tythes of the village in corn and cattle[n]. Of this Church much of Geoffry's original building still remains, particularly a noble Norman arch on which the tower stands, and the roof of the choir yet retains four intersecting Norman ribs. In the register of Eynsham abbey is another particular relating to this Church. "Galfridus de Clinton, concessit ecclesie S. Petri de Chersington unam virgatam terre in eadem Chersington quam Gulielmus de Clinton eidem ecclesie dedit pro restauratione turris ipsius ecclesie quam propter imminentia et suspecta sibi pericula dejecit, &c. Teste Agnete uxore ejus." cap. 108. Agnes, the witness here mentioned, and wife of the second Geoffrey, was daughter of Roger, earl of Warwick[o].

[m] See Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 5, where there is an engraving of this paten.

[n] Register Abbat de Eynsh. MS. ut supr. cap. 19.

[o] Warton's Hist. of Kiddington, p. 45.

A.D. 1318. Sir William de Montacute, son and heir of Simon de Montacute, ancestor of the Montacutes, earls of Salisbury, high in favour with Edward II., obtained licence of that monarch, to make a castle of his mansion house at Kersynton, or Cassington in Oxfordshire [p]. And the manor of Cassington was a part of the dowry of his wife, lady Elizabeth Montacute [q]. Sir William Montacute had two acres of land in Cassington, by the gift, I suppose an exchange, of Maud de Upton, Abbess of Godstow, in 1318 [r]. Cassington appears to have been granted to his father Simon, by Edward I., in 1290 [s]. The arms of Montacute formerly were in the western window of the Church of Cassington. They also were in a window of the neighbouring Church of Bladon.

The mansion house of the Montacutes, at Cassington, perhaps stood where is now a large farm house, with a moat, and other marks of an antient manorial edifice. Here, however, originally lived the noble family of Clinton.

A.D. 1450. Carsington, Chersington, or Cassington, was the estate and demesne of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, at his death, which happened 2 May, 28 Henry VI., after this manner; he was a great favorite of Queen Margaret, and had by his imprudent management of royal favours, incurred the odium of the nobility and people, insomuch that a general insurrection being feared by the king, he ordered his banishment, and accordingly the Duke, putting to sea at Ipswich, in Suffolk, with a purpose to sail into France, was taken by a ship of war, belonging to the Duke of Exeter, then constable of the tower, and had his head cut off upon the side of the cock boat he was in. His body and head were after found by one of his captains, and being conveyed to the collegiate Church of Wingfield, in Suffolk, was buried there. John de la Pole, then but seven years old, was left his heir.

The Church here is a vicarage, for an augmentation of which, Dr. Jasper Maine, archdeacon of Chichester, who died in 1672, gave by his last will £100 to purchase land with for that end. The parsonage, before the dissolution, belonged to the priory of St. Frideswide, Oxford; but being then seized by King Henry VIII., was settled on his newly erected college, Christ Church, to which it now belongs [t].

[p] Pat. ii. Ed. II. ann. 11°. P. i. m. 24.
[q] Esch. 28°. Ed. II. n. 39.
[r] Register Abbat. Eynsham, MS. cap. 136.
[s] Cart. 18°. Ed. I. n. 73.
[t] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 377.

Thomas Neale, Batchelor of Divinity, sometime fellow of New College, succeeded Dr. Bruerne as Hebrew professor, 1559; he died at Cassington in 1590, having then at the age of 71, erected his own monument with a brass inscription [u].

FROM A. WOOD'S MSS. IN THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM.

On the S. E. side of this Church is an house, with a moat round all or most part of it, situated.

This house hath a fair homestall & 6 yard land belonging to it.

Wh. house & land were owned for about 2 or 3 generations by the names of Coventry.

The last of that name there, sold it Edmund Rainolds M. of Arts of Glocester Hall, about the latter end of Q. Elizab.

This Ed. Rainolds was a younger son of Rich. Rainolds of Pinhawes near Exeter in Devon, educated in C. C. Coll. of which he was fellow, but leaving that house because he was popishly affected, retired to Glocester Hall, where being a noted tutor, for sixty years or thereabout, grew very rich.

This said Edm. died (in Glocester Hall I think) 21 Nov. 1630, aged 92, and was buried in Wolvercot Chancel. He then left to Matthew Cheriton his nephew a farm at Wolvercote joining to the Churchyard there.

To Richard Reynolds eldest son of his younger brother Nicholas a farm at Einsham, who having onlie a daughter or daughters, that name there is worn out.

To Will. Rainolds 2nd. son of the said Rich. he left his chief farm in Cassington of 6 yard land mentioned before.

Wh. William having had three wives, left the said farm to Christopher his onlie son by his 2. wife (for he had none by his first) who now enjoyes it—and 'tis esteemed to be worth £100 per an.

The said William Rainolds who was bred in Glocester Hall under his uncle Edm. before mentioned was a R. Cath. & dying at Cassenton on the 5. Novemb. 1661. was buried in the middle of the Chancel there. Some years after his widdow a simple woman put a blew marble stone over his grave, whereon she caused to be engraven an inscription, but false according to time, viz. that he died 6 Nov^{r}. 1662 [x].

[u] Wood's Annals, P. ii. p. 849. For the inscription see Skelton, Wootton Hundred, p. 4.

[x] A. Wood's MS., E. 1. folio 160.

ENSHAM.

PATRON.
NASH SKILLICORNE
SKILLICORNE, Esq.

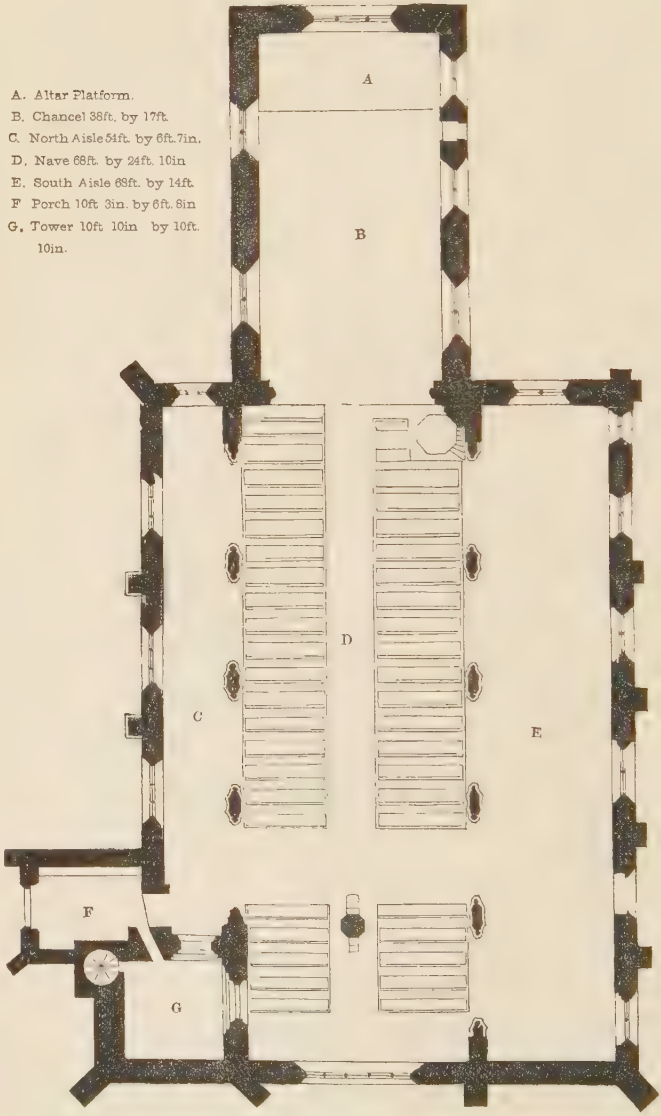
St. Leonard.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A FINE Church, mostly Perpendicular, with a Decorated Chancel, a nave with two aisles, and a tower at the west end of the south aisle.

The CHANCEL is Early Decorated, the east window of three lights, with the foliations cut out of the head, and the lower part concealed by a wooden Altar-screen in the Dutch style: the side windows are of two lights, with geometrical tracery; the three on the south side are perfect, with fragments of the original stained glass in the head. There is also a small south door. On the north side are two windows, one of which has the tracery

A. Altar Flatform.
B. Chancel 38ft. by 17ft.
C. North Aisle 54ft. by 6ft. 7in.
D. Nave 68ft. by 24ft. 10in
E. South Aisle 68ft. by 14ft.
F Porch 10ft 3in. by 6ft. 8in
G. Tower 10ft 10in by 10ft. 10in.

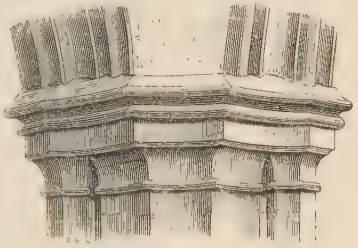


THE PLAN.

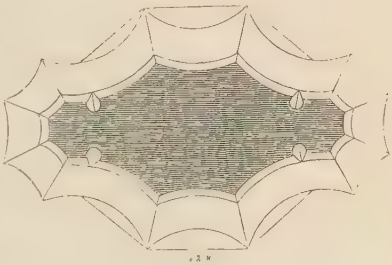
cut out. The walls are three feet thick, and have no buttresses; the roof is of a good high pitch, with part of a cross on the east gable; the timbers are concealed by a coved plaster ceiling; the Chancel-arch is Decorated, springing from corbels, richly moulded; there are the remains of a Perpendicular screen, but the upper part is all cut away.

Mouldings of Capital of Chancel-Arch.

The Nave is Early Perpendicular, of five bays, the arches on each side pointed and recessed, with hollow mouldings on octagonal piers, with each face hollowed, and octagonal shafts attached, with moulded capitals to both piers and shafts; the form of these is unusual, but there are similar examples at Chipping Camden in Gloucestershire, and in some other places. The clerestory on the north side has six Perpendicular windows, of two lights, square-headed; on the south side there are only three small single lights, foliated, with square dripstones over them: the west window is of five lights, the head much subdivided with Perpendicular tracery. The roof is of plain open timber, with corbel-heads. The parapet is plain, not battlemented.

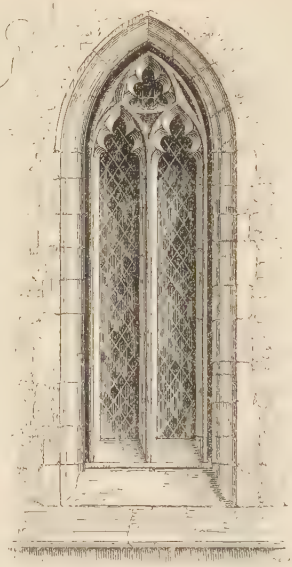


Capital of Pillar, c. 1400.

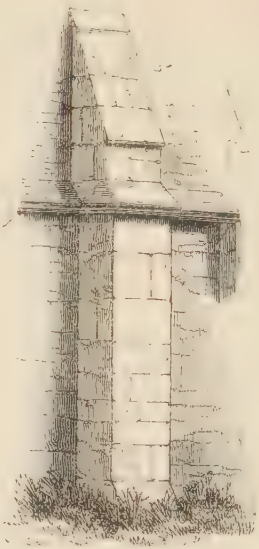


Section of Pillar

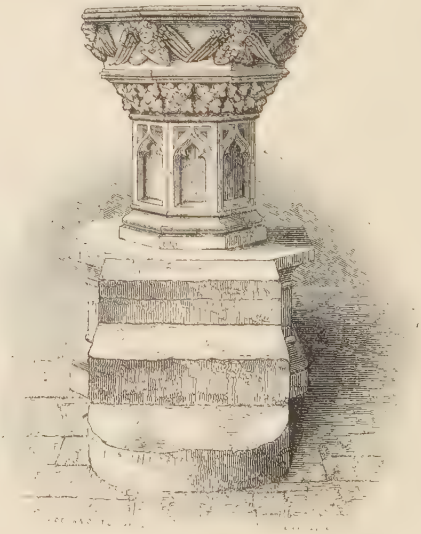
The north aisle is Perpendicular, with good windows, of three lights, the dripstones of which have curling terminations: the roof is a lean-to: the parapet plain Perpendicular, with a rich cornice, having flowers inserted in a hollow moulding: the north door and porch are plain Perpendicular, with a battlement.



Window, South Side c. 1290.



Buttress, South Side, c. 1290.



The Font, c. 1450.

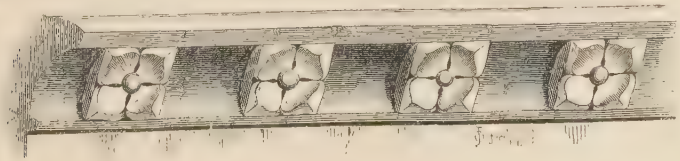
The south aisle is mostly Decorated, with a very good Early Decorated window at the east end, and another on the south side next to it; there are three other Early Decorated windows, of two lights, not foliated, with the roll-moulding for a dripstone, terminated by masks; between them are low flat buttresses, dying into the wall at about half the height of the windows; a good Decorated stringcourse along the wall under the windows continued round the buttresses; a fourth window is also Decorated, but shorter than the others, and with the lights foliated; the westernmost window on this side is Perpendicular, of three lights; the south door is also Perpendicular, with bold mouldings and a square head over it, the dripstone having shields for terminations.

Dripstone Termination, c. 1290.

The Font, placed at the west end of the nave, is good Perpendicular, raised on three steps, and has been carefully restored; the seats are mostly open oak benches, with good carved ends, but there are some high deal pews, and the aisles are spoiled by galleries.

The Tower is situated at the west end of the north aisle; it is good Early Perpendicular, with battlement and cornice; the belfry windows are large, of three lights; the stair-turret attached to the north-east angle is square below and octagon above; there are arches opening into the Church on the south and east sides, but now plastered up, and small diagonal buttresses on the two western angles.

Opposite the Church are the shaft and base of a good Early Decorated cross, with figures under canopies round the shaft, and a foliated capital.



Cornice of the North Aisle, c 1450

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In this part of the country the Britains did long resist the encroaching Saxons. After the kingdom of the West Saxons was established in the persons of Cerdic and Cynric, A.D. 519[y], they made several attempts to enlarge their conquests in these parts, and after the death of Cerdic, A.D. 534, Cynric had a greater progress to his arms, and from 551, for five following years gave several defeats to our midland Britains, who in the year 556, united all their strength, and at Beranbyrig, now Banbury, in this county, they fought with king Cynric, and Ceawlin his son, to regain the honour they had lost in five succeeding years; where they were so numerous as to divide their army into nine battalions, placing three in the front, a like number in the flank, and as many in the rear, with their archers and horsemen disposed according to the Roman discipline; by which conduct they so well received the fury of the Saxons, that when the night parted them, the victory was still depending[z], and though the Saxon historians conceal it, the event seems to prove a success to the Britons, who kept their fortified places in this county to the year 571[a], or as some writers say, to 580, when king Ceawlyn, and Cuthwulph his brother, fought with the Britons at Bedford, and after a defeat, took from them their strongest garrisons, of which three were in these parts, Egelesburh, Eilesten', now Ailsbury; Benmington, Benesingtun, now Benson; and Eymesham, Henesham, now Ensham. From which time, though this whole county was reputed within the district of Mercia, yet most of it was subject to the kings of the West Saxons[b].

[There are still considerable remains of an ancient British earthwork on the brow of a hill, near Ensham, at a short distance from the Oxford road, and plainly visible from it, about half a mile from the bridge. This was probably the fortress here mentioned.]

In 626 the Britons were still powerful in these parts, the West Saxon kings had their frontier garrisons at Cirencester and Ensham, and there were continual conflicts.

The Isis having received the Windrush flows on to *Einsham*, Saxon Eȝnerham, antiently a royal rill among very pleasant meadows. It was first taken from the Britains on their defeat by Cuthwulf the Saxon, and embellished with a monastery (for Benedictines,) by a nobleman named Ethelman. His foundation was confirmed by Ethelred, king of Eng-

[y] Saxon Chronicle.

[z] Henry of Huntingdon, ed. Savile, p. 534.

[a] Saxon Chronicle.

[b] Kennett, vol. i. p. 33.

land, A.D. 1005, who, in the words of the original, "signed the privilege of liberty, with the sign of the holy cross [c]."

The monastery is said in the charter of king Ethelred, to be founded "in loco celebri juxta fluvium qui vocatur *Tamis* constituto, quod ab incolis regionis illius Ennesham nuncupatur vocabulo [d]."

Here king Ethelred, by advice of Alphege and Wulstan, archbishops of York and Canterbury, held a council in 1009, wherein many decrees, both ecclesiastical and civil, were enacted. Spelman [e] calls the place where this council was held Eanham, but does not determine where it was [f].

A.D. 1109. In the charter of renewal of Henry I. to Ensham abbey, among the possessions are enumerated the town of Ensham, and all that appertained to it in meadows, and waters, and woods [g].

A.D. 1184. A general council was held at Ensham, at which Hugh of Grenoble was elected bishop of Lincoln, and several other solemn elections of bishops and abbots were made in the presence of the king and the archbishop [h].

A.D. 1230. Upon a grant of the bishop of Lincoln, for observing of processions and other solemnities of Ensham Church, in obedience to the mother Church of Lincoln, in Whitsun week many of the Oxford scholars, repairing thither to see jovial doings, were assaulted by the country people, who killed some, and wounded others, and made the rest fly home in fear and danger of their lives. The bishop hearing it, excommunicated the authors and abettors of this sedition, in all the Churches of Oxfordshire, excluding them the society of all Christians, and depriving them of the benefit of confession till the feast of St. Bartholomew; the scholars also resented this injury so highly that they intermitted all lectures, and would not resume them till the offenders had undergone the severest punishments; and when they did, the bishop procured of the Pope a permission for the doctors and masters of Oxford to become lecturers and regents in any other University without any examination [i].

Numerous benefactions to the abbey are recorded in Dugdale, Kennett, &c., which it is not necessary to repeat here. There is a catalogue

[c] Camden's Britannia, vol. i. p. 285.

[d] Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 259.

[e] Spelman's English Councils, vol. i. p. 510.

[f] Gough's add. to Camden, vol. i. p. 295.

[g] Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 265.

[h] Chron. Gervas., p. 1480. Kennett, vol. i. p. 199.

[i] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 380.

extant of the abbots, twenty-eight in number: Miles Salley, the twenty-sixth abbot, was honoured with a visit at the abbey in 1501, from prince Henry, afterwards king Henry VIII.; this abbot was subsequently bishop of Llandaff, and held the abbey *in commendam*. The last abbot was Anthony Kitchen, who with his prior, sub-prior, and thirteen monks subscribed to the king's supremacy, and surrendered the abbey in 1539, 30th Henry VIII., upon the promise of an allowance of £135 6*s*. 8*d*. *per annum*. He was soon afterwards promoted to the bishopric of Llandaff.

At the time of the suppression the revenues of the abbey were valued, according to Dugdale, at £441 12*s*. 2*d*., equal to about £9,000 per annum of our money. The site of the abbey was granted in the 35th of Henry VIII., to Sir Edward Northe, knight, and William Darcye. In the 37th of Henry VIII. it was again granted out to Edward, earl of Derby; after passing through a younger branch of that family, it came to a nephew, Sir Edward Stanley, K.B., one of whose coheirs was Venetia, wife of Sir Kenelm Digby, celebrated for her beauty and accomplishments. Subsequently it passed, in 1626, to James Lord Strange, son to William, Earl of Derby, who married Charlotte, daughter to Claude Tremoville, Duke of Tours, who had with her £24,000 in portion, in consideration of £6,000 of which sum his father settled the manor of Ensham on Philip, Earl of Pembroke, Sir Ralph Crew, and Sir Thomas Posthumous Hobby, in trust for the said Charlotte. It was subsequently purchased by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and has continued in that family to the present day; the Duke of Marlborough is the lay impropriator.

Of this once magnificent abbey the last remnant was pulled down by Mr. Druce, in 1843; it was a small but elegant doorway, with an ogee head, Decorated mouldings and dripstone. A part of the foundations may still be traced under the greensward of a meadow at a short distance to the west of the Church. A considerable portion of the buildings appears to have remained, though in ruins, up to near the end of the last century: there is an engraving of the west end, with two towers, and a large Decorated window of seven lights between them, and part of a Norman cloister, in the Description of England and Wales, 1769, vol. vii. p. 245.

HANDBOROUGH.

PATRONAGE OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Peter and St. Paul.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK, HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

A FINE Church, mostly Perpendicular, with good tower and spire, plan oblong, with two aisles.

The CHANCEL is originally Early English, but the east window is an insertion of debased Perpendicular work, square-headed, with a transom, four lights, not foliated. There is a round-headed niche in the north side which was probably an aumbrye.

On the south side are two lancet windows, with the roll moulding as a string under them; and a sepulchral recess, under which has been inserted the brass of Alexander Belsyre, the first president of St. John's College, with an inscription in Latin and English.

The Chancel-arch is Early English, with three engaged shafts, having round capitals well moulded. The roof is nearly flat, with purlins, and horizontal tie-beams. The aisles of the Chancel have square-headed Perpendicular windows; in the south aisle there is also a plain round-headed narrow light, and a piscina, with an ogee head, trefoiled. The rood-loft is perfect across the

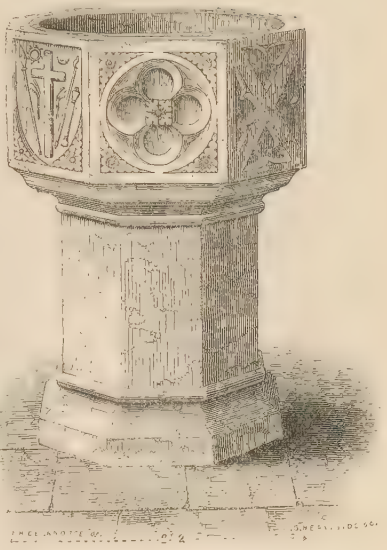
The Rood-loft, c. 1460

aisles, with a staircase still open in the outer wall of the south aisle; across the Chancel-arch the rood-screen only remains, with a crest of the Tudor flower, and mouldings enriched with foliage; the portion across the north aisle is older than the others, which are rather debased imitations of it; the whole retains a good deal of the ancient painting and gilding.

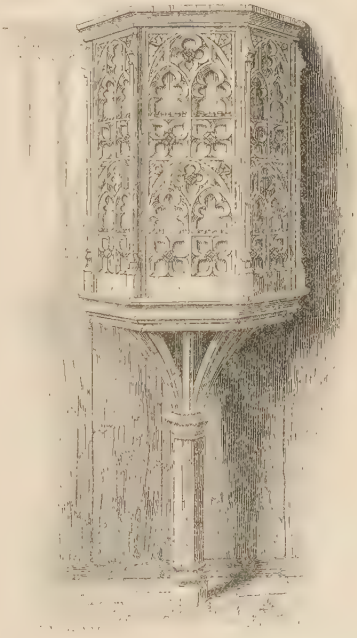
The Nave is Perpendicular, and has three arches on each side, the pillars slender, octagonal, and hollowed on the alternate faces; caps plain moulded, arches recessed, hollowed. The clerestory has three square-headed three-light windows on each side. The roof is of low pitch, with horizontal tie-beams and pendants resting on corbels.

The Font is good Perpendicular, octagonal, with quatrefoiled panels; one containing a cross, with the emblems of the Crucifixion, the others a square flower in the centre of the quatrefoil: two of the sides are plain, one has been so originally, the other has been repaired: the shaft is plain, with good base-mouldings.

The Pulpit is good Perpendicular, of oak, panelled; it is placed at the south-east corner of the nave. The seats are mostly good old open oak benches, but a few enclosed pews have crept into the south aisle of the Chancel, and a few doors to the old pews have been introduced at the west end of the nave.



The Font, c 1460.



The Pulpit c 1460

The outer walls are Norman, and have retained their original doorways, and some of the small Norman windows, but most of the windows are square-headed Perpendicular insertions. One of the Norman windows, near the north door, is a very small

Exterior. NORMAN WINDOW. Interior

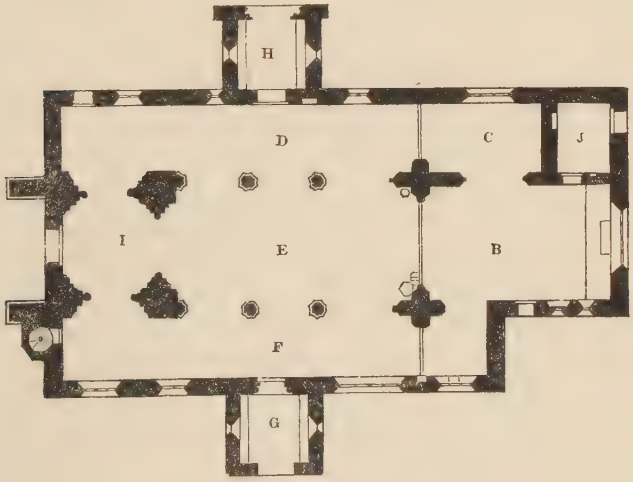
narrow round-headed light, widely splayed to a flat trefoiled inner arch.

On the east side of the south door is an elegant Perpendicular niche, with a battlemented moulding along the sill of it. The outer doorway of the north porch is Early English, with three engaged shafts on each side, of which the centre ones are gone; the arch thrice recessed. The inner doorway is Norman, round-headed, with massive engaged shafts; the edge of the arch has a bold round moulding, and over that the zigzag. The tympan is filled with a rude sculpture of St. Peter sitting with a key in his right hand; on his left is the Lamb and Cross, on the right a lion. The inner doorway of the south porch is Norman, round-headed, with roll-moulding and large engaged shafts, the head filled up with an obtuse triangular door-head, the tympan plain. The vestry is at the east end of the north

Niche

Chancel-aisle, entered by a pointed door from the Chancel: there are the remains of a square-headed Perpendicular window at the east end, under which a door has been formed.

The Tower is square, and has three stages: the west window is Perpendicular, of three lights, cinquefoiled: the west door has a square dripstone, with trefoils in the spandrels: in the upper stage are four windows of two lights, trefoiled. The spire is octangular, with round mouldings on the angles: at the bottom, on the cardinal sides, are four ogee-headed windows of two lights, trefoiled: on the other sides are four small lancets, half way up the spire: the bells are five in number. The tower-arch is Early English, with the ringing-loft open to the Church, serving also as a western gallery.



The Plan.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
B. Chancel	27	6	by	16	8
C. North Chapel	17	10	by	10	3
D. North Aisle	50	0	by	8	10
E. Nave	34	0	by	15	0
F. South Aisle	50	0	by	8	10
G. South Porch	9	8	by	9	8
H. North Porch	9	0	by	9	8
I. Tower	14	0	by	14	0
J. Vestry	10	0	by	6	8

In the north-west corner of the Church-yard stands the ruin of a mausoleum of the Boucher family, built about the beginning of the last century, which now belongs to the Duke of Marlborough; it is without a roof, and in a dilapidated state. In the Church-yard, near the principal entrance of the Church, there is a small stone cross, used as a head-stone to a grave; it appears to be of the fifteenth century, and is a valuable example for imitation: these small crosses are said to have been generally used in former times, but they are now very rarely to be met with.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Doomsday survey, "Haneberge" is enumerated as part of the land of Gisleberti de Gand—"Hanborough[1]."

The Church of Handborough was given to the abbey of Reading, by Simon de Sen Liz, earl of Northampton, in 1147.

Symon de Sen Liz comes Norhamtoniæ ep'o Linc. archid. baronibus, justiciariis, vicecom. ministris, clericis, laicis et omnibus sanctæ ecclesiæ filiis per Oxenefordsyram constitutis salutem. Sciant omnes tam præsentes quam futuri me dedisse et concessisse et in perpetuæ possessionis elemosinam confirmasse Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Rading pro salute anime mee et parentum meorum ecclesiam de Hanebergha cum terris et decimis et omnibus ecclesiæ pertinentibus sicut rex Henricus dedit et concessit in vita sua. Unde volo et precipio quod ecclesia de Rading et monachi eam in perpetuum possideant, et in pace teneant. Hii sunt testes hujus cartæ. Ricardus de Camvil, &c.[m]

Handborough, according to a patent of the 5th of Edward II., contained a messuage and carucate of land, which were held by the service of keeping the gate of the manor-house of Woodstock for the space of forty days in the year in time of war[n].

[1] Kennett, vol. i. p. 92.

[m] Kennett, vol. i. p. 140.

[n] Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 8.

The living of Handborough was given to St. John's College by William Sandys, Esq., at the instance of Archbishop Laud. It is valued in the Liber Regis, temp. Hen. VIII. at £11 6s.; the present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £353.

Handborough is noted for the Selenites, or moon stone, which have been found in great plenty in digging of wells near this place [o].

THE FOLLOWING MONUMENTS WERE IN THIS CHURCH IN WOOD'S TIME.

Against the north wall of the Chancell a marble tablet to Margaret Clarke, wife of Humphrey Clarke, Esq., of Woodchurch and Kingsnoth, in Kent, who died September 18, 1542. This Monument was erected by Sir Simon Clarke of Salford, in Com. Warw., in memory of his grandmother, a°. 1632.

On the S. wall a Monument to the memory of Jane Culpepper, widdow of Walter Culpepper, Esq., 1636.

On a brass plate on the ground under the former, Anne Culpepper, obiit 3° Aprilis, 1580.

On another by the former, Walter Culpepper, obiit 13 Aprilis, 1616.

On another brass plate by this last, Mary Culpepper, died 19 Augst 1593.

Within a arch in the S. wall of the Chancel is a brass plate affixed: thereon the picture of a man lying along in his winding sheet, and under him this, Obiit Alexand. Belsire, 13 die Julii, Anno Dni 1567. (See p. 152.)

On a brass plate on the ground in the same Chancel, Johanna Mericke uxor Mauritii Merick Generosi, obiit 17 Apr. 1617.

In the body of the Church in the middle, is a brass plate upon the ground, whereon is a woman between 2 men, under them 3 boys and 4 girls, between them this inscription: Pray for the souls of Chr. Ford and Jane his wife, and for the soul of Thomas Wheeler, her first husband, and for all her children's souls: on whose souls Jesus have mercy.

In a Chapell on the S. side of the Church, in a window thereof, are the pictures of 3 men and 3 women: over them this inscription; Orate pro bono statu Ricardi Snareston ceterorumque qui reparaverunt istam fenestram, An dni 1453.

In the same window the pictures of 3 men and their wives, under them these: Willm Bayly ... uxor ejus. Richard Snareston ... Margaret uxor ejus. Thomas Roch ... Tibott uxor ejus.

In a S. window of the Church, the picture of a man praying; under it, Orate pro Johanne Sprot [k].

[o] Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 380.

[k] Wood's MS. E. 1. fol. 65. Most of these monuments, whether of brass or of glass, are now alike destroyed.

INSCRIPTION IN LATIN AND ENGLISH ON THE SEPULCHRAL BRASS TO ALEXANDER BELSYRE.

Hoc quod es, ipse fui, mortalis, uterque perinde
Mortuus, ac fato tu moriere tuo.
Sic ergo vivas, ut cum moriere, superstes
Vita sit in cœlis non moritura tibi.

That thou art now, the same was I;
And thou likewise shall suer dye:
Live so that when thou hence dost wend
Thou mayest have blysse that hath no end.

ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE CHANCEL IS PAINTED THIS INSCRIPTION:

M. S.
Sanctissimi Regis et Martyris Caroli
Siste viator
Luge. Obmutesce. Mirari.
Memento Caroli illius
Nominis pariter et Pietatis insignissimi Primi
Magnæ Britanniæ Regis
Qui Rebellium Perfidiâ primò deceptus
Dein Perfidorum Rabie perculsus
Inconcussus tamen Legum et Fidei
Defensor
Schismaticorum Tyrannidi succubuit
Anno
Salutis humanæ MDCXLVIII.
Servitutis nostræ / Fœlicitatis suæ } Primo
Coronâ terrestri spoliatus Cœlesti donatus
Sileant autem perituræ Tabellæ
Perlege Reliquias, verè sacras
Carolinas
In Quéis
Sui Mnemosynem, ære perenniorem
Vivaciùs exprimit
Illa Illa.
ΕΙΚΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ.

COOMBE.

ATTACHED TO THE RECTORY OF LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. Lawrence.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK. HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	32	10	by	16	12
Nave	48	0	by	27	10
Tower	14	6	by	11	0

A good Perpendicular Church, with a tower at the west end covered with ivy.

The Chancel is Perpendicular; the east window very wide, with a flat arch, five lights, with Perpendicular tracery, some good bits of old stained glass in the head, and good dripstone terminations; the side windows are square-headed, and on the south side there is a small Perpendicular door with a square label: the roof has a plastered ceiling, coved with ribs and bosses. The sedilia are good Perpendicular, with ogee canopies, the shafts detached, with trefoiled arches connecting them with the wall. A Perpendicular piscina, trefoil-headed, has the drain and basin very perfect. The rood-arch is plain but good, springs from plain corbels; on the north side of the rood-arch is the rood-staircase,

The Chancel door, A.D. 1395

with its two doors; on the south side a good Decorated niche, with the ball-flower in the mouldings and an ogee head; this appears to have been built in, from an earlier building. The rood-screen has some good tracery remaining of Decorated forms, but is Perpendicular.

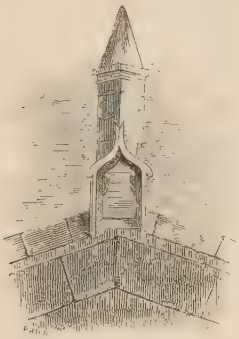
The Nave has three Perpendicular windows on each side, all of three lights; most of them have remains of stained glass in the heads: the roof is of very low pitch, but open to the timbers and boards, covered with lead, the remains of old work, but much decayed and patched; one of the corbels has a shield, with the letter T upon it. On the north side of the nave, under the easternmost window, is a good stone pulpit, springing from a corbel-head; it is panelled and rich. The font is Perpendicular, panelled.

The Stone Pulpit A.D. 1395

The Tower is Perpendicular, with square pinnacles on the angles; the windows have good dripstones, terminated by heads; the tracery of these windows is bold and well defined, the jambs recessed, and the mouldings deep, and more than commonly well wrought. They form a striking contrast to the windows of the chapel of Lincoln College, which are superficial and meagre. The doorway and door are good Perpendicular, with a square dripstone over, having good returns: the return is

in a diamond form, like that over the entrance into the common-room of Lincoln College, and such a return as is to be found in Eton College, all built in the reign of Henry VI. The tower-arch is fine, though now boarded up; it ought to be re-opened. The north porch is Perpendicular, with a stone roof, and arched ribs; the south porch is turned into a vestry.

On the east gable of the nave is a sanctus-bell turret, of a peculiar but not very elegant form; the finial is gone, and



Sanctus-bell turret.

Cross on East Gable

it does not appear to have had crockets: there is a good Perpendicular parapet to the nave, panelled, with quatrefoils.

On the east gable of the Chancel is an elegant cross of early Perpendicular work.

The Tower has a battlement and pinnacles; the windows are good Perpendicular. The Church is much covered with ivy, the situation and the general effect very good: in the Church-yard is an Altar-tomb, with quatrefoils.

Adjoining to the Church is the rectory-house, which has a battlement, and bay windows with foliated heads, in the style of the fifteenth century. The frontage towards the south was built by the late, and has been embattled towards the east and west by the present rector: it is of considerable extent, and the buildings towards the north and west are coeval, if not prior to the foundation of Lincoln College, of which Society the rectory of Coombe is not only an appropriate benefice, but part of the dotation of Rotherham, the second founder, and is subject to the

foundation statutes. The chaplain's house, in common with the rectory-house, is contiguous, and opens into the Church-yard; and the Church of Coombe, together with the rectory of Twyford, Berks, and the rectory of All Saints and St. Michael's, Oxford, and that of St. Mildred, Oxon, constitute the rectory of the Blessed Mary and all Saints, Lincoln.

There is a view of the Church and rectory-house of Coombe in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The word Cwmm in the British, signifying *vallis* or *convallis*, as doth also Cumbe and Combe in the Saxon, as at Combe in this county of Oxon., though the Church be now upon the hill, yet was the Church first built in the deep adjoining valley, at the east end of the water-mill, in a ground called Bury Orchard, where the foundations of buildings, and limits of the Churchyard are still visible, (in the time of Kennett,) from which place the materials were removed, and the present Church erected on the hill, A.D. 1395, which Church of Cumbe was given by Maud the Empress, to the monks of Eynesham, in this county [p].

In digging a grave, May 17, 1823, were found some coins of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and a beautiful ring of pure gold, with a large ruby set on the top, weighing nearly a quarter of an ounce. It is in the possession of the Rev. C. Rose, then chaplain [q].

[p] Kennett, vol. i. p. 149.

[q] Skelton's Oxford, p. 6.

STONESFIELD.

PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. James.

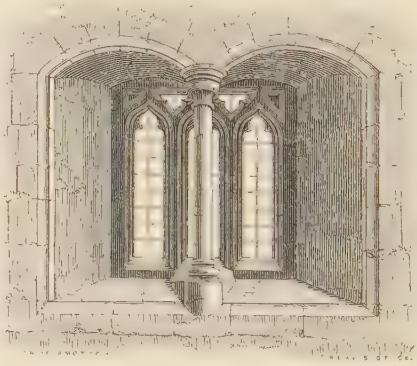
DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	25	0	by	14	0
Nave	23	4	by	20	0
South Aisle . . .	24	0	by	7	11
North aisle of Nave, modern.					
N. aisle of Chancel	22	4	by	11	8
Tower	9	0	by	9	
Thickness of wall .	3	3			

Chancel—The east window is Decorated, of three lights, good, with modern stained glass; on the south side are two good small Decorated windows, of two lights, with quatrefoils in the head, widely splayed within; one is of the regular Decorated form, the other has Perpendicular lines in the head, but is Decorated, and the labels of both are the same, consisting of a good Decorated roll-moulding, with short returns dying into the wall. There is a small piscina, with an ogee head, foliated. The Chancel-arch is Early English, pointed, trebly recessed, hollowed, with shafts in the jambs, two attached, the middle one detached; the caps ornamented with the stiff-leaf foliage.

Window on the South side of the Chancel, c. 1360.

The Nave has on the south side two Early English arches, doubly recessed, pointed, chamfered, the central pillar massive, clustered, with plain moulded caps and bases; the western respond is the same; the eastern has the mouldings continued to the ground; the label is plain, chamfered, terminated by heads. The south aisle has two small Decorated windows, and a small trefoil-headed piscina. The north aisle is modern, the old arches having been cut away. The west window is a small oblong loop, widely splayed. The south door and porch are modern, and very bad. The roof of the south aisle is a plain lean-to, not original; the roofs of the nave and north aisle are concealed by a flat plaster ceiling; the roof of the Chancel is also ceiled, but the high pitch is preserved. The pulpit is Elizabethan. There is a good piece of screen-work plastered up between the Chancel and aisle. The north aisle of the Chancel is Early English, now parted off as a school-room. The east window is a good triple lancet, with clustered shafts on the edges of the slips of wall which divide them, and are widely splayed; the caps and bases have good plain Early English mouldings. The north window is of three lights, Decorated, square-headed, with well-moulded mullions; on the inside, this window has two segmental arches on



North Window, Interior.

North Window, Exterior.

a detached Early English shaft; it has been a two-light Early English lancet window: the slip of wall cut away, and a Decorated window inserted on the outside, but the inside preserved. The roof of this aisle or chapel is plain Perpendicular.

The tower-arch is Early English, with a square-headed trefoil door to the staircase. The walls are Early English, with late Perpendicular windows inserted, and a Perpendicular upper story added, with good windows and a battlement.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The most remarkable antiquity of this place is the Roman tesselated pavement, discovered in 1711 and 12; a description of which was published in 1713, by the Rev. John Pointer, chaplain of Merton College, who gives the following account of the discovery and situation. "On the 25th January 1711-12, as a country farmer, one George Hannes, was ploughing his land, his ploughshare happened to hit upon some foundation stones, amongst which he turned up an Urn, which made the farmer have the curiosity of searching further, whereupon he discovered a large and entire antient tesselated Roman pavement, 35 feet in length, and 20 in breadth, not above two feet under grownd . . . . . That part of the field where it was discovered is called Chest-hill-acre in some old leases of this land, being a rising ground about half a furlong from the old Roman Akeman street way, and about three furlongs off Stunsfield town." There is an engraving of the outlines of the chief figures in the pavement, as a frontispiece to Mr. Pointer's tract, which he concludes to be the youthful Bacchus, crowned with ivy, with his panther. Hearne has a long dissertation on this pavement, prefixed to the eighth volume of his edition of Leland's Itinerary; he imagines the figures to be Apollo, with his lyre in his hand, and a wild beast at his feet. [No remains of this are at present to be found, unless the Roman villa in the adjoining parish of Northleigh is that intended.]

In the time of Henry III., according to the Testa de Neville, the living of Stonesfield belonged to the king, and was valued at ij marcs.

In the time of Henry VIII., according to the Valor Ecclesiasticus, it was a Rectory valued at iiij*l.* xii*s.* viij*d.*; Philip Apprice being then Rector. In 1731 it was in the patronage of the Duchess of Marlborough, and in 1771 of the Duke, being then valued at 40*l.* per annum. The present value, according to the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £139.

WILCOTE.

PATRON.
MRS. PICKERING.

St. Peter.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

West end of Wilcote Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	13	9	by	16	4
Nave	31	8	by	19	3
Porch	8	6	by	8	6

A SMALL Decorated Church or Chapel, without aisles or tower; it has had a bell-turret, or gable at the west end, which is now destroyed.

The CHANCEL is very wide, and the walls low, with a high gable; at the east end is a small Decorated window of three lights, with the heads foliated, and the spandrils pierced under one arch, obtuse, with the roll-moulding for a dripstone on the exterior; a plain string along the wall under the window; the walls are of rough stone, the dressings ashlar: in the interior this window

has a flat segmental arch with a deep hollow in the head. The south window is a small lancet, widely splayed through a very thick wall. The south door is small, with a flat trefoiled head. The Chancel-arch is small, pointed, doubly recessed, chamfered, springing from Decorated corbel-heads; one has the chin-cloth, the other the hair spread out and curled round in the style of Edward II.

The Nave has at the west end, two Decorated windows of two lights, with a quatrefoil in the head, the eyes not open; the windows are of very good proportions, not much splayed, with a slight hollow in the head. The side windows, one only on each side, are of two lights, Decorated, with the eyes pierced on the sides of the quatrefoil. On the south side there has been a chapel, of which the arch remains; the window under it having been rebuilt. On the south side also is a Norman door, plain, with cushion caps and billets under the label: the north door is Decorated, with plain mouldings, two ogees, with an early label, almost Early English.

The Porch is quite plain, but original Decorated work, with stone benches: the exterior of the west end is very good, it has a buttress in the middle, and the base of a bell-turret, the upper part of which has been destroyed.

The Font is a modern marble basin and pillar, placed under the arch of the Norman door, which is blocked up. The pews are modern, partly open and partly plain enclosed; there is a raised place for singers, but no gallery. The roofs are concealed by coved ceilings, which, with the walls, are thoroughly whitewashed. I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The manor formerly belonged to the ancient family of Wilcotes; subsequently, to Sir William Pope, who was created a baronet by James I., by the style of Sir William Pope of Wilcot[r].

In the time of Henry VIII. the Rectory of Wyvelcote was valued in the Valor Ecclesiasticus at liijs. iiijd; John Leversage being then Rector. In 1682 the patronage belonged to John Cary, gent.; in 1733 to Richard Cary, Esq.; in 1761 and 1774 to Elizabeth Wellington, widow.

[r] Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred, p. 6.

NORTHLEIGH.

PATRONAGE OF THE CROWN.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.

A MIXED Church with two aisles and two chapels, and a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is modernized in the Italian style, with an Altar-screen painted and gilt. The east window is good Decorated, but entirely concealed by this modern work; two good Decorated shafts of the old Chancel-arch are preserved, but the Chancel is now extended further westward, and parted from the nave by a Grecian wooden screen; it has early ridge tiles, and a good Decorated cross on the east gable.

East Window

The NAVE has two transition Norman pointed arches on each side, the edges merely chamfered off; the two central pillars are round, with Norman caps and bases, but the responds are quite plain.

The old Norman Font, with a square basin, is in the Churchyard, on the west side of the porch, serving as a *water-butt*. The present font is of wood, square and panelled, with a Grecian cover, under which is a marble mortar, and inside of that a blue and white basin.

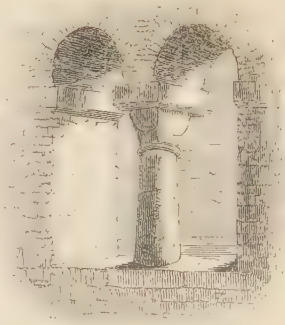
The south aisle has Perpendicular square-headed windows, one with good tracery, the others plain: the south door is good Norman, with a bold round bead, and the billet-moulding, and shafts with Norman caps and bases; under this round arch is a Perpendicular arch, with the ogee and hollow mouldings, and reversed chamfer terminations in the place of imposts; the jambs plain and square edged.

South Door.

The north aisle has a plain Perpendicular door, and a modern chapel of rich Italian work added on the north side, filled with monuments of the Perrot family; at the east end of the north aisle is a very rich Perpendicular chapel, with a fan-tracery vault; the windows late Perpendicular, with considerable remains of stained glass: there is a small Perpendicular piscina marking the situation of the Altar. On the south side of this chapel, under the arch, between it and the Chancel, is a very fine Perpendicular tomb, with two recumbent figures in alabaster, a knight in armour, with the collar of S.S.S.; the lady with a rich turban and reticulated head-dress, and also with the collar of S.S.S., &c.; the canopy over the tomb is a fine Perpendicular ogee, with bold crockets, pinnacles, and finial; the weepers are destroyed, but the niches remain, though mutilated; the figures are Lord and Lady Wilcot. Attached to this monument are two small figures of Angels, holding shields of arms; on one is

a spread eagle, on the other three cockle-shells, with an engrailed band.

The Tower has very massive walls of rubble, and seems of early character, with arches pierced through the walls under it at a subsequent period; there is some long and short work, but concealed by rough-cast; the western arch is fine Early English, richly moulded; the side arches are plain, many times recessed; the west window under the tower is Decorated, of two lights; on the first floor the windows are plain Norman loops; the belfry windows are Norman, of two lights, with a balustre, supporting a long stone through the wall, corresponding with the imposts; the arches are of rough stone. This tower is by some supposed to be Saxon, but appears to agree with other Norman work. The roof is modern, and there is a Perpendicular battlement: the tower contains four bells, and on each side of the tower is a small penthouse, as if for a bell, but long disused. On the east side of the tower are the weather-mouldings of the original high-pitched roof, and on the west side the same, shewing that the Church must formerly have extended further in that direction; the impost of a Norman arch in the wall also shews that this western part had an aisle.



Belfry Window.

I.H.P.

Cross on the East Gable

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Doomsday survey, Lege, or Northleigh, formed part of the grant of Roger de Iveri [s].

In 1149 we find Northleya mentioned as part of the barony of Hokenorton, transferred by Robert de Oiley to Oseney [t].

A.D. 1227. 11 and 12 Henry III. Robert earl of Dreux in right of his wife baron of S. Walery, and lord of the manor of Ambrosden, presented to the church of North Leigh com. Oxon [u].

A.D. 1277. 5, 6. Edw. I. Ricardus Linc. ep'us religiosis viris abb'i et conv. de Hegles, ord. Cisterc. salut. Cum nobilis vir d'n's Edmundus com. Cornub. cujus predecessores domum vestram fundaverunt et bonis propriis dotaverunt divine pietatis intuitu numerum monachorum ad augmentum divini cultus augeri desiderans in eadem nobis humilime supplicaverit ut de Hamelhamstede et de Northle n're dioc. eccl'ias cum capellis de Bovendone et Slaverdene dicte eccl'ie de Hamelhamstede spectantibus, quarum advocationes vobis liberaliter concessit ut adjectione decem monachorum vestri conventus sacer numerus amplietur, domui v're appropriare curaremus—prescriptas eccl'ias vobis et succ. v'ris in pios et proprios usus—concedimus—salvis archid'o Hunt. 5. sol. annuis pro eccl'ia de Hemelhamstede et archid'o Oxon. 4. sol. ann. de eccl'ia de Northle—pro recompensatione juris sequestri sui in eisdem. dat. 7 kal. Mart. 1277. pont. 20 [x].

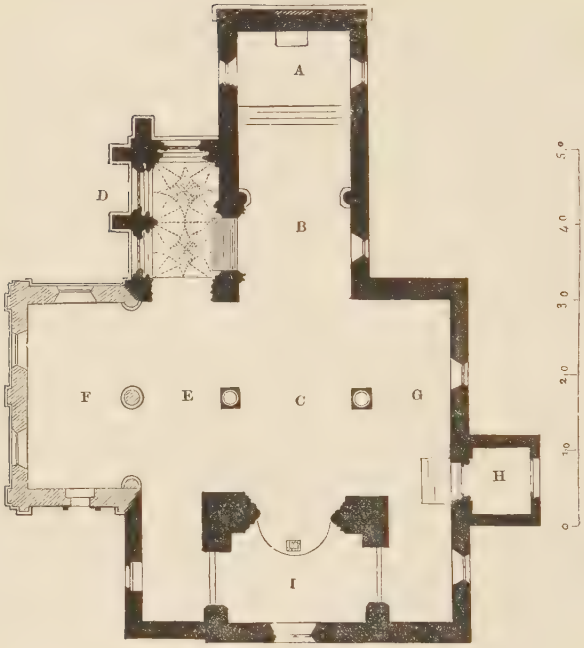
Joh. Linc. ep'us confirmat 6. id. Jun. 1303. Ordinatio vic. de Northle sequitur. Reg. Dalderby.

Mr. Price, of the Bodleian Library, had a very ancient seal in brass, one inch broad, inscribed Sigillū Thome de Wylcote Armigeri, with his arms, viz., an eagle with wings, which had long been preserved at Wilcot-house. The same coat occurs in the neighbouring Church of Northleigh, where is a beautiful chantry Chapel belonging to the family, containing an Altar-tomb highly embellished. Both Chapel and tomb appear to have been executed about the reign of Henry VI. [y]

There is a plate of "The Wilcotes' Effigies" in this Church, in Skelton's Oxfordshire.

[s] Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.
[t] Kennett, vol. i. p. 142.
[u] Ex. Regist. Linc. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 284.
[x] Kennett, vol. i. p. 408.
[y] Warton's History of Kiddington, p. 38.

THE PLAN.



	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
A. Altar Platform.					
B. Chancel	36	0	by	14	9
C. Nave	24	2	by	15	6
D. Wilcote Chapel.	18	10	by	8	3
E. North Aisle	24	2	by	8	6
F. Perrot Chapel	23	11	by	15	7
G. South Aisle	25	5	by	10	3
H. South Porch	8	8	by	7	4
I. Tower	18	0	by	12	6

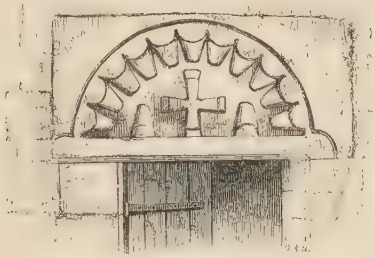
SOUTHLEIGH.

A CHAPEL ANNEXED TO STANTON HARCOURT VICARAGE.

PATRON.
BISHOP OF OXFORD.

St. James.

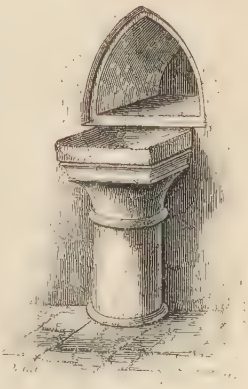
DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



Head of the Chancel door.

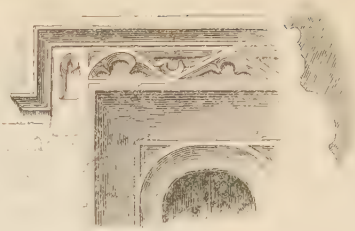
A NEAT Perpendicular Church, with some portions of early work in the Chancel; an aisle on the north side only, and a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL walls are transition Norman, and one window of that character remains on the north side of the Altar; there are also Norman strings on all the walls; a transition Norman piscina on a column, and plain brackets for the Altar. The east and south windows are late Perpendicular insertions; there is a small door on the south side, over which are some singular Norman ornaments, cut on the face of the stone. The south window is Perpendicular, of three lights, the heads not foliated, with a square dripstone, under



Piscina.

which is a curious and rich piece of work, resembling a Decorated parapet of wavy lines, foliated; it seems probable that this window is imitation Gothic, of the time of James I. The Altar platform is raised two steps: on the north side there is a Perpendicular arch opening into an aisle. The Chancel-arch is Early English, plain, pointed, with moulded imposts. The staircase to the rood-loft remains.



Head of South Window in Chancel.

The north aisle of the Chancel is Perpendicular; the east window of three lights, pointed; the north window square-headed, of three lights, cinquefoiled, with fragments of stained glass, consisting of stars, in the cusps; there are also some fragments of stained glass in the east window of the Chancel, and a Perpendicular screen across the entrance to both the Chancel and the aisle; over it is an Italian cornice, put on in 1710, and the arms of Queen Anne stuck up in the arch. The Chancel was ceiled at the same date. A poors'-box still remains near the font, with two locks.

Head of a light in the N. Window

The Nave has on the north side three good Perpendicular arches, recessed, with deep hollow and ogee mouldings, and shafts, with octagon caps and cases. There are two south windows, Perpendicular, of three lights; one has the tracery cut out. The south door and porch are good plain Perpendicular; the doorway has hollow mouldings, and the dripstone is terminated by heads; the door is of old oak, with Perpendicular hinges and iron-work, and a large wooden lock, with a curious key; the porch has a plain open timber roof, with the cornice moulded and embattled. In the porch are the remains of a niche or stoup for holy water.

The north aisle has three good Perpendicular square-headed windows; the east window pointed, Perpendicular, of three lights.

The roof is original Perpendicular work, a lean-to, with moulded beams, and good corbel-heads. On the south side of the nave is a good Perpendicular bracket. The roof of the nave is flat, put on in 1812.

The Font is good Perpendicular, panelled, with two steps; it stands under the middle arch, opposite the south door. The seats are partly good old oak, and open, and partly modern enclosed deal pews.

The Tower is Perpendicular, the arch plain, pointed, and recessed, with the edges chamfered, the chamfers continued to the ground, without shafts or bases: it is open to the Church, and has a very good effect: the tower contains three bells and a sanctus, and is surmounted by a battlement, with good Perpendicular cornice, and gurgoyles at the angles; there is a square stair-turret on the north side; the side walls have also Perpendicular battlements and cornices: there is a cross on the east gable of the Chancel.

The old manor-house, near the Church, has a good Perpendicular fire-place, some oak panelling, with good mouldings, and barge-boards to the porch. On the green, near the Church-yard, the remains of a cross are still visible, consisting of three steps.

John Wesley preached his first sermon in this Church. His friend, John Gambold, was the Vicar of Stanton Harcourt. The Wesleyans of the present day make frequent visits to the spot which was the first scene of his multifarious labours.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Doomsday survey, Lege, or South Leigh, formed part of the grant of Roger de Iveri[z].

A.D. 1147. 12 and 13, King Stephen. The Chaple of South Leigh, in com. Oxon., was granted by Richard de Camvil, to the abbey of Rading[a].

[z] Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.

[a] Cartular. Abbat. de Radinges MS. b. 169. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 140.

STANTON HARCOURT.

PATRON.
THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

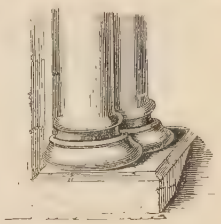
St. Michael.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	44	0	by	18	3
Harcourt Chapel .	27	9	by	15	6
North Transept .	24	0	by	20	0
Tower	17	0	by	16	3
South Transept. .	24	0	by	20	0
Nave	48	0	by	23	0
Porch	9	8	by	7	9

This Church is cruciform in plan, the Nave is of the twelfth century, the Chancel and transepts, with the tower-arches, of the thirteenth, but the upper part of the tower added in the fifteenth, and the Harcourt chapel, or aisle, attached to the south side of the Chancel, about the same period. The walls are of rubble or rag-work, with quoins of ashlar.

The Chancel is a good specimen of the style of Henry III., with a fine triple lancet window at the east end; this is united within into a single window of three lights, with triple shafts on the edges, connecting the splays; the window-arches, the capitals and bases of the shafts are boldly and well moulded; the two central caps are ornamented with foliage: on the outside the three lancet lights are detached, the centre one being the highest; the dripstones are, however, connected and continued along the wall as strings, arranged something like corbie steps; there are small original buttresses at the angles, reaching only up to the lower string beneath the windows; larger and higher ones have, however, been found necessary and added at a later period: the wall having been much cracked and the arches of the two side windows having given way.



Window shaft in the Chancel

On the north side there are six lancet windows divided into two very elegant triplets, but one of the lights is blocked up to receive a monument; on the exterior the two triplets are very distinct, though the lancets, as at the east end, are united in the inside only; there is a small round-headed Early English door on this side, now blocked up. On the south side one of the triplets also remains perfect, the other has been destroyed in the fifteenth century to make room for two Perpendicular arches opening into the Harcourt chapel, but now closed with a plastered partition. The strings along the walls, both inside and out, are good and bold Early English mouldings. Under the window, on the south side of the Altar, is a very elegant Early English piscina, with a stone shelf, and a shaft from the ground to carry

the basin: there are two small brasses on the floor, near the steps to the Altar.

On the north side of the Altar is a small monument, about four feet long, by two wide, with a tall and very rich Decorated canopy over it, on the cornice of which are shields, with the arms of several noble families[b]: much of the original colouring remains on this canopy. On the Altar-tomb itself are the emblems of the Crucifixion, and five shields, which are now blank: three of these are carried by figures with scales, or feathers, having small crosses on their heads, and the hair dressed in the fashion of Edward I. This structure is supposed to have been used for the Easter sepulchre, and it is stated in the Gentleman's Magazine (1841) that there are other examples in Germany of the same form. There has evidently been some alteration here, and there are remains of some previous structure in the wall. Westward of this, under an obtuse arch in the wall, is the monument of Maud, daughter of John Lord Grey, of Rotherfield, by his second wife Avice, daughter of Lord Marmion, and wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, deceased 17th Richard II. In the westernmost window on this side are remains of the original stained glass, of the thirteenth century. The roof of the Chancel retains its original high pitch externally, but within it is concealed by a plaster ceiling.

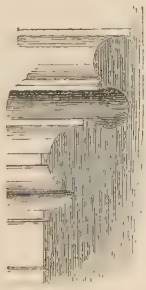
The Chancel-arch is good Early English, pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered off; with shafts, having small fillets on the face, and well-moulded caps and bases; and a bold roll-moulding for the label.

The rood-screen is perfect, and original oak-work, of the same age with the arch, the mouldings corresponding exactly with the stone-work; the lock is also original, and worthy of notice. This is the earliest wooden rood-screen that has yet been noticed in England.

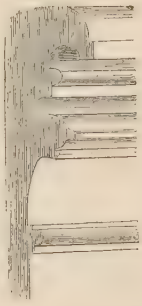
The other tower-arches are similar to the Chancel-arch; their points are, however, cut off by a plaster ceiling: the first story of the tower is of the same age, and the approach to it is by a

[b] See a further account of this in the Historical Notices.

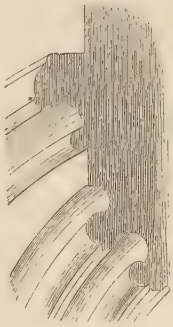
ROOD-SCREEN



BASE OF SHAFTS.



CAPITAL OF SHAFTS



ARCH.

very elegant stair-turret in the angle of the Chancel and north transept: this has its original pyramidal roof and finial, and is an excellent model for imitation. The original door into it remains in the inside; the present door is external, and was made in 1789. The upper story of the tower is an addition of the fifteenth century, with a battlemented parapet; it contains five bells.

The north transept retains its lancet windows on the sides, with two moulded arches, supported by good shafts, four good heads as brackets, a piscina, and the platforms of two Altars on the east side; the north window is an insertion of the fifteenth century, but the string is perfect on the outside; that on the inside has been almost destroyed, but the remains of it, with those on the side walls, are good Early English, and there is a small acutely pointed door of the same period at the north-west corner, which, from immemorial custom, is used by the men only; the wooden door has Early English iron hinges, with scroll-work, but rather plain for that period; it has a stoup just within it: the roof is plain Perpendicular, of low pitch, but open; in this transept there are some early seats, with poppies of the fleur-de-lis form.

The south transept has two lancet windows on the west side, and one Early English arch on the east side, the other having been removed when the Harcourt chapel was added, and a Perpendicular arch opening into it was made through this wall. The south window is Perpendicular, and the roof plain open timber, of low pitch: the strings are Early English, and there is a small door, similar to that in the north transept, but blocked up.

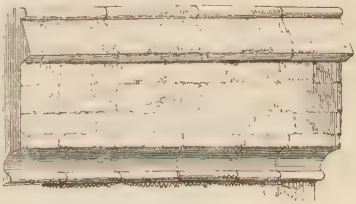
The Nave is Norman, and has still the two original doorways, north and south; these are simple, having semicircular arches, with a sort of rude zig-zag moulding, and attached shafts with bold capitals. By the side of the north door is a small Norman stoup; this door is used by the women only; the south door is not used, but the old wooden door remains and has Early English iron hinges, with scrolls; there are also four small

Norman windows, single lights, deeply sunk in the wall on the outside, with a bold round moulding continuous round the head and down the jambs, without capitals, and there are no labels. The west window is Perpendicular.

On the north side, close to the tower-arch, is a small low Perpendicular window, under a recessed Early English arch, in which there appears to have been another Altar. The dripstone of this window is ornamented with a four-leaved flower. On the south side of the Nave are two Early English brackets, and on each side of the arch are two others. There is a plain porch of wood and plaster over the north door.

The Font is good Perpendicular, tall octagon, panelled, with buttresses at the angles, with the Tudor ornaments, and the emblems of the Crucifixion on one of the panels, IHC on another, and the arms of Byron on another[c]. This Font was carefully restored in 1833, but the original ornaments with their painting were preserved and placed on a tablet under the west window.

The Pulpit is plain; the seats in the Nave are good specimens of the old style, with solid square ends and moulded rails. The roof of the nave is very good open timber of the latter part of the fourteenth century, with tie-beams and king-posts, and springers to support the tie-beams, resting on good corbel-heads, the spandrels filled with open tracery: there are two struts on each side of the king-post to the rafters; these and the principals are engrailed: it is altogether a fine example of an open timber roof. The parapet is plain, of the same age as the roof.



Parapet of the Nave.

The Harcourt aisle is rich but late Perpendicular work, with an open quatrefoil parapet, and square-topped pinnacles; it was erected in the time of Henry VII., when the mansion adjoining was built, and it is filled with monuments of the

[c] See Historical Notices.

Harcourt family extending from that period down to the present time. Near the east end there is an elegant Perpendicular piscina.

In the Church-yard there is the base of a cross.

The remains of the mansion of the Harcourts are highly interesting; the description of them by Simon, Lord Harcourt, which follows, is so full and satisfactory that it is only necessary here to refer to it. The recent publication by our Society of a complete set of drawings of this Church by Mr. Derick, also renders it unnecessary to repeat them here.

EXTRACTS FROM "AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH AND REMAINS OF THE MANOR HOUSE OF STANTON HARCOURT IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD." BY GEORGE SIMON EARL HARCOURT. NUNEHAM-COURTENAY, Nov. 1, 1808.

The manor of Stanton Harcourt has continued six hundred years in the Harcourt family. Queen Adeliza, daughter of Godfrey, first duke of Brabant, and second wife to king Henry I., granted the manor of Stanton to her kinswoman, Milicent, wife of Richard de Camvil, whose daughter Isabel married Robert [Richard [d] ?] de Harcourt; and from the time of that marriage it assumed the name of Stanton Harcourt.

The said Robert was sheriff of Leicester and Warwickshire in the years 1199, 1201, 1202, and the above-mentioned grant was afterwards confirmed to her and her heirs by king Stephen and king Henry II. [e]

In the Chancel, on the north side of the Altar, is a small but beautiful altar-tomb, with a rich canopy over it, which the arms carved and emblazoned upon it prove to have been erected to commemorate some person of the ancient family of Blount [f]. [Camvil ?]

[d] Isabella filia Ricardi de Camvill uxor *Ric. Harecourt* de Bosworth in Com. Leic[r]. 4 R. I.—Dugd. Bar., vol. i. p. 628.

[e] It was held of the crown by military service for some particular customs, for which see Lord Harcourt's Account, pp. 5, 6, and Rot. Hund. Oxon. 4th Ed. I. pp. 34, 46, and p. 856.

[f] Wood describes this monument as that of Isabel, daughter and heiress of Richard de Camville before mentioned; and has preserved sketches of the shields as they remained in 1622, which have all been ascertained, excepting one: these

On the south side of the Chancel is a large plain altar-tomb, without any inscription, but with the impression of a cross still remaining upon it; the brass has been torn away. [It is of the fourteenth century; the end that is visible is richly panelled; but it is almost concealed by the partition, as it stands under the eastern arch between the chancel and the Harcourt aisle.]

The ancient monument, under an arch in the south wall of the Chancel, is that of Maud, daughter of John lord Grey, of Rotherfield, by his second wife Avice, daughter and co-heiress of John lord Marmion, (which Maud, with her two brothers, assumed the name and arms of Marmion,) wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, son of Sir William and of Johanna, daughter of Richard lord Grey of Codnor; she died in the seventeenth year of Richard II. She has the reticulated head-dress, with a narrow gold binding across the forehead, a scarlet mantle, lined with ermine, and a deep cape of the same, scolloped at the edge, on either side of which are two small gold tassels, a broad band of ermine, with a narrow gold binding across the breasts; the upper part of the sleeves of the same; the lower part light blue and reaching to the knuckles, like mittens. On the surcoat the arms of Harcourt impaled with those of Grey. Those parts both of the arms and of the dress which are blue, are damasked: at her feet a small dog. On the front of the monument four shields with the following arms: namely, Harcourt; Harcourt impaling Grey; Grey; Marmion.

On a brass in the pavement is the figure of a priest in his vestments, in memory of Sir Henry Dodschone, vicar of the parish.

seem to shew that Lord Harcourt was wrong in ascribing it to one of the Blount family, and it seems probable that this monument may have been erected to her memory, though not until long after her death, as the monument itself is clearly of the time of Edward I. The extensive connections of the family may account for the number of shields of arms upon it. This is not inconsistent with the idea of its having been used for the Easter sepulchre also, as it was a common practice to use actual tombs for that purpose, and was considered a very high honour.

"These armes on the Monument of the daughter and heire of Camville.

1. Camvile.
2. Harcourt.
3. Harcourt impaling Camvile.
4. Marmion.
5. Hovenden.
6. Lovell.
7. Lovell, with bend for difference.
8.
9. Bohun.
10. Brotherton.
11. Estotevil.
12. England.
13. Earl of Gloster.
14. Percy.
15. E. Warren.
16. Lo. Dacres."

Wood's MS. E. 1. f. 36. c. 1622.

In the north transept, on a small round blue marble, inserted in the pavement, is a brass which is worthy of notice from the manner in which the arms of Beke are united with those of Harcourt. Sir Richard de Harcourt, son of William and Hilaria, daughter of Henry lord Hastings, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of John lord Beke of Eresly, which said lord devised by his will, made twenty-ninth of Edward I., the remainder of his arms to be divided between Sir Robert de Willoughby and Sir John de Harcourt; and the above-mentioned stone is probably in memory of Sir John, son of Sir Richard Harcourt and Margaret Beke; he died 1330. [This brass is curious also from its consisting only of the outline of the shield and arms let into the marble in thick lines, and not a brass plate engraved.]

In the south transept is an altar-tomb, the monument of Sir Simon Harcourt, son of Sir Christopher and Johanna, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Miles Stapleton. He was knighted in the twenty-first year of Henry VII., and married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Darrell; he died 1547. At the head of the tomb the arms of Harcourt, and on either side three shields, with the following arms: Harcourt and Darrell; Harcourt and Stapleton; Harcourt; Harcourt and Darrell; Harcourt and St. Clair; Darrell.

The Font is octagonal; on the front is a cross, with letters in the Gothic character on either side of it. In each of the compartments are spread quatrefoils, except that on which there is a cross: within two of the large quatrefoils are two smaller, and more enriched; within the two others, a rose; and the remaining three contain shields, with the following arms: Byron; Francis impaling Harcourt; Harcourt. By a strange error, to have been committed in an age when the science of Heraldry was held in high estimation, the arms of Francis are placed on the dexter instead of the sinister side. Sir Thomas Harcourt, who died in 1460, married Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Francis; but no female of the former family married into the latter. It is probable from the style of the ornaments carved upon the Font, and from the arms of Byron being placed upon it, that it was erected by Sir Robert Harcourt, who married Margaret Byron, and was son of Sir Thomas, [and died in 1471.]

The Harcourt Chapel. Under the east window, where the Altar formerly stood, is a large monument of marble and alabaster, gilded, to the memory of Sir Philip Harcourt [who died in 1688], and his first wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, the parliament general, by the lady Anne Finch, daughter of Thomas, first earl of Winchelsea. It consists of a pediment supported by two columns of black marble of the Corinthian order: at the top the crest of Harcourt, and on either side two boy angels holding a drapery, in the centre of which are the arms of Harcourt impaling Waller: below the cornice are two oval niches, containing the busts of Sir Philip and his wife, and under them two tablets on which are inscriptions in Latin to their memory.

The monument on the south side is that of Sir Robert Harcourt, son of Sir Thomas and Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Francis, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron, and widow of Sir William Atherton. Sir Robert was sheriff of Leicester and Warwickshire in 1445, governor of Vernon, &c., in Normandy, 1446, and elected High Steward of the University of Oxford the same year; knight of the garter in the third year of Edward IV.; commissioner with the earl of Warwick and others for the treaty between England and France in the year 1467; slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party 1471. He is represented in his hair, a gorget of mail, and plated armour strapped at the elbows and wrists; a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right; belt charged with oak leaves, and hands bare, and a kind of ruffle turned back at the wrists; shoes of scaled armour; order of the garter on the left leg, and over all the mantle of the order, with a rich cape and cordon; his head reclined on a helmet, with his crest, a peacock; at his feet a lion. His lady is in the veiled head-dress falling back; has a mantle and surcoat, and cordon; long sleeves, fastened in a singular manner at the wrists, and the garter, with the motto in embossed letters, above the elbow of the left arm, emblazoned upon it; her feet partly wrapped up in her mantle. On the front, four spread six foils, containing shields with the following arms: Harcourt impaling Byron twice, and twice Marmion; which Maud Grey, his grandmother, bore in right of her mother, heiress of the Marmions. At the head of the monument two shields; on one, Harcourt and Byron encircled with the garter; on the other, Harcourt single. The figure of this lady is extremely curious, from her being represented with the garter, and is one of the only three known examples of female sepulchral effigies having been decorated with the insignia of that order. According to Mr. Ashmole, Constance, daughter of John Holland, duke of Exeter,

first married to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, and secondly to Sir John Grey, knight of the garter, and earl of Tankerville in Normandy, was thus represented on her tomb. The other similar example is the effigy of Alice, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, wife of William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, on her beautiful monument at Ewelme, in the county of Oxford, still in perfect preservation, but on the last-named figure the garter is worn above the wrist, and has no motto. Of the three above-mentioned monuments, fine and accurate engravings have been given in Mr. Gough's magnificent and instructive work on the Funeral Monuments of Great Britain. [And of the one in the Harcourt Chapel a separate engraving was published by R. Wilkinson in 1813.]

Opposite the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and his lady, is that of Sir Robert his grandson, son of Sir John and Anne, daughter of Sir John Norris. He was standard-bearer to king Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth; knight of the Bath, 1495; knight banneret, 1497. On the front of the tomb are four monks in black, holding their beads, and two angels holding each a shield; at the head a red rose, the cognizance of the house of Lancaster. He is in his hair, plated armour, gorget of mail, collar of S.S., a large hilted sword, hands bare: his head reclines on a helmet, with the crest, a peacock on a ducal coronet.

On a stone in the pavement are the figures of two men engraved in brass, and two shields; on the one, Harcourt impaling Atherton; on the other, on the sinister side, the arms of Atherton only, the impalement on the dexter having been torn off. Underneath are inscribed the names of Thomas Harcourt, who died the third of February, 1460; and of Nicholas Atherton, who died the twenty-sixth of October, 1454. And under them the figures of three children, George Harcourt, Alys Harcourt, Isabel Harcourt. Thomas Harcourt was third son of Sir Robert and Margaret Byron, and it appears from the arms of Atherton being impaled with his, that he married one of that family.

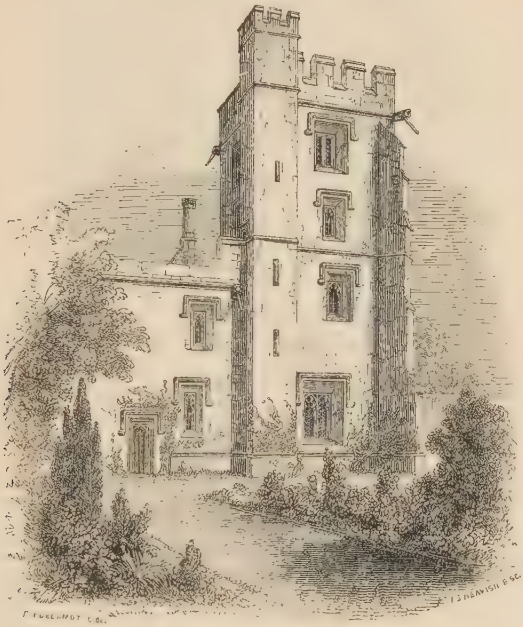
On one side of the Chapel is a large mural monument of marble, ornamented with flowers, to the memory of Simon, only son of Simon, first viscount Harcourt, on which is an inscription in Latin, composed by Dr. Friend; and below it the well known lines by Mr. Pope, which however differ in some respects from those published in his works. Near the head of the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and Margaret Byron [is a good Perpendicular piscina with ogee canopy, pinnacles, crockets, and finial.]

This Church, besides its several ancient and curious monuments, is distinguished by two epitaphs by Mr. Pope, and one by Mr. Congreve,

viz., that inscribed on a tablet on the outside of the south wall, to the memory of the lovers killed by lightning; that on the monument of the Hon. Simon Harcourt; and that on Robert Huntingdon and his son, Esqrs., by the last.

THE MANOR HOUSE.

The Porter's Lodge. The front of which towards the road remains in its original unaltered form. The arms on either side of the gate, in both fronts, Harcourt impaling Darrell, shew that it was erected by Sir Simon, who died 1547.



Pope's Tower, &c.

The House. The principal apartments, the great hall, the great and little parlour, the Queen's chamber, (so named from its having been occupied by Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, when she made a visit there,) with other chambers, filled the space between the domestic chapel and the kitchen, and remained entire [until near the end of the last century.] Some upper rooms in the small remaining part of the house, adjoining the kitchen, and now occupied by a farmer, are nearly in their original state, and bear evident marks of antiquity. [In one of these rooms there is a plain stone fire-place, with a four-centred arch, and a good chimney of the fifteenth century.] But the time when they were erected is not

known, nor the date of that curious and remarkable building, the kitchen, [the whole, however, appears to have been built about the reign of Edward IV.]

The Kitchen. In its form and general appearance it bears much resemblance to the abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury; and yet it differs considerably from the latter, which is an octagon, inclosed within a square, with four chimneys in the angles; whereas the lower part of this building is square, both inside and outside; [the upper part is octagonal, with squinches across the angles.] Moreover it is larger and much more lofty, and has no chimney; a winding staircase in a turret leads to a passage round the battlement; and beneath the eaves of the roof, which is octagonal, are shutters, to give vent to the smoke, according to the quarter from whence the wind blows. The height of the walls to the bottom of the roof, which in the centre rises twenty-five feet more, is thirty-nine feet: and the griffin on the point of the cone is eight feet. The turret that contains the steps is square, and rises nine feet above the other walls, which are three feet thick, and measure on the outside, from east to west, thirty-three feet, and from north to south thirty-one feet.

The abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury is said to have been erected so late as in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Domestic Chapel, with a chamber over a part of it, and the tower, containing three chambers, one above the other, each thirteen feet square,

The Domestic Chapel.

remains in good repair, and the uppermost retains the name of Pope's study: the pane of red stained glass, upon which he wrote the following inscription, having been taken out of a casement in this chamber, and preserved as a valuable relique at Nuneham Courtenay. "In the year 1718, Alexander Pope finished here the fifth volume of Homer." That great poet passed a part of two summers at Stanton Harcourt for the sake of retirement, where he was occasionally visited by Mr. Gay, from the neighbouring seat of lord Harcourt, at Cockthorp. And the former has recorded the story of the lovers, who were killed by lightning, in a letter dated from the place where that event occurred. The height of the tower is fifty-four feet six inches, and the turret that contains the steps is raised two feet nine inches higher. The part immediately under the tower, where the Altar stands, is twelve feet square, and fifteen feet ten inches high in the centre. Below the springing of the arch on one side are the arms of Harcourt emblazoned on a shield, on the other those of Byron. [This part is vaulted with fan tracery, and a small circular

opening in the centre; the ribs spring from good corbels in the angles. The arch between this and the outer Chapel is good Perpendicular, four centred, with a square head over it, retaining much of the ancient red and blue colouring.] The outer part of the Chapel has a flat wooden ceiling, composed of squares with red and yellow mouldings, and a blue ground, with gilded stars in the middle of each compartment. It is 17 feet 5 inches by 14 feet 8 inches wide, and 11 feet 8 inches high. From the arms of Harcourt and of Byron being placed where they are, it may be conjectured that the tower was erected by Sir Robert in the reign of Edward IV. The house was never inhabited by any of the family since the death of Sir Philip, an. 1688, when his widow, who had been his second wife, and on whom the estate was settled in jointure, disposed of the furniture by sale, and suffered the buildings, from neglect of the necessary repairs, to fall into decay, and they were afterwards demolished by the late earl. The description given by Mr. Pope of this once large and curious mansion, in a letter written from thence to the duke of Buckingham, although it be ludicrous and witty, is in almost every particular very incorrect; the situation of the several buildings being exactly the reverse of that in which they really stood, as is demonstrated by a still existing plan.

At a short distance from the village are three large monumental stones known by the name of the Devil's Coits; these stones Mr. Thomas Warton, in his account of Kiddington, conjectures were erected to commemorate an engagement fought near Bampton in the year 614, between the British and Saxons, when the Saxon princes, Cynegil and Cwhicelon, slew more than two thousand Britons. The adjacent barrow has been destroyed. [The stones are of the sandstone of the country with red veins interspersed.]

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII., Stanton Harcourt is described as a vicarage belonging to the Abbot and Convent of Reading. John Pereson being then Vicar, and the value of the Vicarage was xvi*l.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* In Bacon's Liber Regis, 1786, it is valued at £34, and in the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1831, at £136.

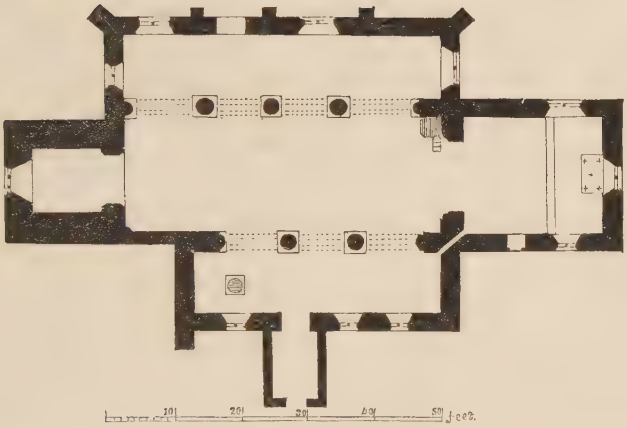
Scenery of Cuddesden.
Kycote
Albury
Great Haseley
Waterperry
Great Milton
Holton
Cuddesden
Wheatley
Stadampton
Chiselhampton
Drayton
Newington
Benson
Warborough
Stanton St John
Forest Hill
Garsington
Dorchester
Horspath
Toot Baldon
Marsh Baldon
Beckley
Headington
Nuneham
Clifton Hampden
Noke
Elsfield
Wood Eaton
Littlemore
Sandford
Marston
Iffley
OXFORD
Culham

MARSTON.

PATRON.
REV. T. WHORWOOD.

St. Nicholas.

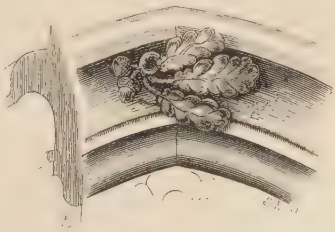
DEANERY
OF CUDDESDON.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



Ground Plan of the Church.

A PLAIN Church, oblong, with aisles to the nave only; a well-proportioned chancel, and a low tower at the west end.

CHANCEL.—The east window is late Perpendicular, of three lights, with good dripstone terminations of octagonal form, and a piece of foliage sculptured at the point, in the hollow of the dripstone; this is an uncommon feature, and a very elegant one. The side windows are of two lights, late Perpendicular, square-headed, with cinquefoiled heads to the lights;



Sculpture over the East Window.

the dripstones have bold square terminations, enclosing ornaments, some of which are the monograms IHS and IHC. There are some good quarrels of painted glass in the heads of these windows. The recess of the first window on the south side is carried down to a stone bench, which served as the seat for the priest; eastward of this is a small square piscina, with the basin and drain perfect. On the south side is also a small door, square-headed within and quite plain, but ornamented on the outside with a pointed arch, carved spandrels, and a dripstone with square terminations. There is a late Perpendicular basement-moulding all round the walls of the chancel. The roof seems to consist of good arched timbers, but is concealed by a plaster ceiling just above the springing. The stall-desks are late, but preserve the old arrangement, having returns at the west end. The chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, square-edged, with plain imposts; by the side of it there is an opening into the south aisle, or hagioscope; this is now boarded up at the west end, but might be re-opened with advantage.

Dripstone Termination.

Chancel Door.

The Nave has four bays, the arches are transition Norman, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, with labels over them, those on the south side differing from and of rather earlier character than those on the north.

Arch, south side of Nave.

The pillars are round, with moulded caps, having thick abaci, but not all alike, the bases are Norman; the clerestory windows are late Perpendicular, square, of two lights. The roof is of the same age, of poor work, and nearly flat. The walls of both the aisles are also late Perpendicular, with square-headed windows, of two lights, without labels. The roof of the north aisle is a lean-to; that of the south aisle is very high pitched, open to the rafters, with tie-beams, and queen-posts, and cross springers; these and the cornice are moulded, but the mouldings are late Perpendicular, and of quite a debased character. The north door is late Perpendicular. The south door is transition Norman, but quite plain. The porch is late, but with stone benches. There is a good iron strap and scutcheon on the south door. The Font is modern imitation of Gothic. The seats are mostly good old open benches, but many of them have sloping book-boards added, which would be better taken away again, and others have modern deal boxes built upon them.

The Tower is late Perpendicular, square, with a good three-light window and arch, open to the nave, but partly hid by the singers' gallery, which should be removed. The belfry-windows are square-headed, of two lights; the parapet is battlemented with a Perpendicular cornice, and gurgoyle heads at the angles.

In the Church-yard there was formerly a cross, which was taken down to mend the wall with in the year 1830; and in the village another cross, which was used about the same period to mend the roads with!! I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1082. The manor was given by the Conqueror to Miles Crispin[g].

A.D. 1132. It was granted by charter of Henry I. to the priory of St. Frideswide[h].

A.D. 1156, 2nd Henry II. About this time Hugh de Plagenet

[g] Kennett, vol. i. p. 93.

[h] Reg. S. Frid. in C.C.C. ap. Dug. I. 174.

granted to the priory of St. Frideswide the tithes of his own demesnes and of his tenants in this manor[i].

A branch of the Croke family had a seat here, which seems to have been acquired by the marriage of Unton Croke, Esq., serjeant-at-law, to Anne, daughter and heiress of Richard Hore, Esq., of Marston. Unton Croke occupies a conspicuous place in the history of the civil wars, as a staunch supporter of the Parliament. In Thurloe's State Papers there is a letter of the 2nd of October, 1655, from Dr. John Owen, the Dean of Christ Church, to the Protector, in which he strongly intercedes in Serjeant Croke's favour, that he might be made a judge: it seems however that the recommendation was not attended to. But in 1656 he was appointed one of the Commissioners under the authority of an act of parliament for the security of the Lord Protector, with power to try offenders for high treason without the intervention of a jury. He acted likewise as a justice of the peace, and there are some entries in the parish register of marriages performed by him in that capacity during the Great Rebellion. He resided chiefly here, and died in 1671, at the age of seventy-seven. His wife had died a few months previously, and they were both buried in the chancel, where there are inscriptions on a flat stone and on a brass plate to their memory. They left ten children. In May 1646, this house was made use of by the Commissioners for the King and the Parliament army in the treaty for the surrendering of Oxford[k]. This house was pulled down in 1843.

The vicarage was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 40s. In the last century it was valued at 26*l.*; the present value is 195*l.* Population, 364.

The advowson of the vicarage has been in the possession of the family of Whorwood since about the year 1600, when Sir W. Brome of Holton, whose daughter and heiress married a Whorwood, exchanged land at Haseley and Albury, for the advowsons and parsonages of Headington and Marston, and the manor of Headington, Marston, and Bolshipton. In 1685 Dr. Edward Masters presented as trustee to Thomas Whorwood, in 1705 Robert King presented (hac vice), and in 1718 the Bishop of Oxford collated.

[i] Kennett, vol. i. p. 475.
[k] Wood's Annals of Univ. Oxford, Book I., p. 481; Kennett, vol. ii. p. 488. Croke's History of the Croke Family.

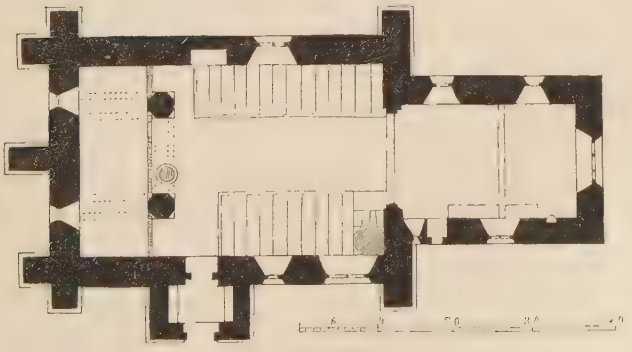
WOOD EATON.

PATRON.
RICHARD WEYLAND, ESQ.

Holy Rood.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

North-west view of the Church

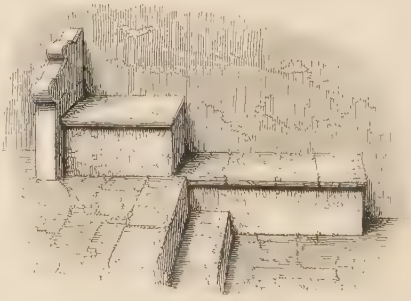


Plan of the Church

The Church is situated about four miles from Oxford, in a very picturesque spot, and indeed the whole village is quite like what all English villages used to be, for the Church is made the chief feature, standing out in an open space surrounded by a low wall and shaded by trees, and on the north side of it lies the green, with a fine old tree in the centre, under which stand the stocks, and near to it the old cross raised on its three steps, though the shaft is now deprived of the sacred emblem of our holy Faith; in another part of the green is the common well with its sweet crystal water; on the east side lies the rectory hard by, with its gable ends and porch, and massive chimneys; on the west is the manor-house, well shaded by stately trees, with its usual companion, the rookery, and all around are scattered the neat cottages, each with its garden bright with gilly-flowers: but the Church is the building of which an account is here to be given.

The present structure is Early English, though different insertions and additions have been made.

In the Chancel, the east window has been destroyed, and a modern Perpendicular one of three lights has been inserted very high up in the wall; in the north wall are two lancet windows, three-foiled; in the south a large Perpendicular one of two lights, five-foiled, has been inserted towards the east end; there is a small Early English priest's door of elegant design, on the west of which, lower than the other windows, is a low side window, being a small lancet window, about four feet from the ground, but commanding hardly any view of the interior, on account of the straightness of its splays, and the thickness of the walls. The chancel-arch appears to be Early English; in the south wall is a piscina with projecting basin, and three-foiled arch. The ascent to the Altar is by two steps, and on the south side is a small and curious stone seat, with a



The Sedilia

carved elbow on the east side; a similar stone bench, but without elbows, is carried from the Altar-steps some feet towards the west: these were the sedilia for the officiating priests. The roof is flat and ceiled, but covered with lead.

The Nave has two Early English windows in the north wall, one a large one of two lights, the other a lancet, three-foiled; there is a north doorway, now blocked up; in the south wall, two lancet windows, three-foiled, and a large square-headed Perpendicular one of two lights, five-foiled and transomed, towards the east end; there is also a Decorated doorway and a modern porch; in the west wall there have been two lancets with a buttress between them, one of which is now blocked up; originally, no doubt, there was a bell-turret, but a small Perpendicular tower of one stage, with a window of two lights on each side, has been added, and two pillars with north, south, and east arches support it inside, but they are all shut out from the Church, and the north and south ones have given way considerably, and wooden centerings have been constructed under them as supports, but apparently it will all come down soon; the roof is of a good high pitch, but plastered off flat inside; it is covered with stone tiles. A stringcourse of the roll-moulding runs round the nave and north wall of chancel, under the windows. The Font is Early English, plain round. The pulpit is slightly carved, Grecian, and painted. In the nave, the seats are old with one or two poppy-heads remaining, but doors have been added to turn them into pews, and they are all painted: there is a great unsightly gallery, (as indeed all galleries are,) shutting out all the west end. The rood-screen is remaining, but is of late Perpendicular work. In the chest is an old altar-cruet, which is not now used; it appears to be made of bell-metal, and in shape, is something like the one in the Chapel of St. Apolline, Guernsey, figured in "Specimens of Antient Church Plate, &c."

Altar-Cruet.

S. ROOKE, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In a charter of K. Athelstan, given at Dorchester, A.D. 938, this village is called Wdetun[l]. In a deed of gift to the abbey of Egnesham, executed by Thomas de S. Walery in A.D. 1196, we find mention of W'deaton[m]. And in the inquisition made into the state of the forests of Shotover and Stowode, at Brehul, (Brill,) A.D. 1363, it is named Wodeton. Hence came the present name.

John Whytton, who was rector of this parish about 1380, was a benefactor of Merton college, and seems to have been the intimate friend of John Bloxham, the seventh warden; they were both buried in Merton college chapel, and the brass plate, with their effigies united under one canopy, still remains, with an inscription, stating that the brass was executed at the expense of John Whytton, who appears to have survived his friend.

This village was formerly the estate of the Taverner family. It belonged to Sir Rd. Taverner[n], High Sheriff for this county, A.D. 1569, who built the manor-house in 1554. He died there July 15th, 1575. This Richard Taverner, although a layman, obtained a special licence from K. Edward VI. to preach in any part of his dominions. He was the author of the Postils, lately reprinted at the Oxford University Press. A short account of him and his works is given in the Beauties of England and Wales, Oxfordshire, p. 263, and a more complete one in Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses, by Bliss, vol. i. p. 419. From the Taverners the estate passed to the Nourse family, and from them, by marriage, to its present possessors, the Weylands. The old manor-house was pulled down in 1775, and the present one built.

In 1676 some ancient British coins were found here, one of Cunobeline, coined at Camulodunum, (Maldon in Essex,) as appears from the inscription, on one side is the figure of a horse and the ear of corn, and *camu*, on the reverse; another has a chalice and a crooked lineation, under which is a forked kind of figure and a small crescent. Some Roman urns have likewise been discovered in this neighbourhood[o].

The rectory was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 10*l.* 0s. 9d.; it is now valued at 169*l.* The population is 86.

[l] Kennett, vol. i. p. 217.
[m] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 140.
[n] Vide Skelton's Antiq. Oxfordshire.
[o] Mag. Brit., vol. iv. p. 512.

ELSFIELD.

PATRON.

LIEUT.-COL. J. S. NORTH.

St. Thomas à Becket.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN.

HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.

South-West View of the Church.

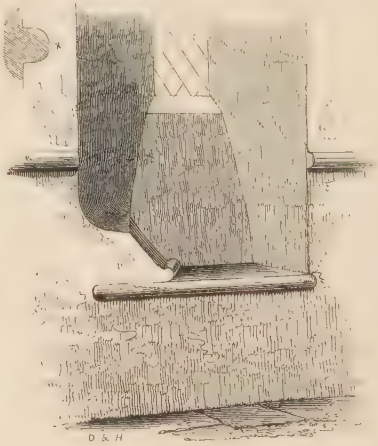
This village is prettily situated upon a hill about three miles from Oxford, and commands an extensive view. The Church is an interesting specimen of the Early English style, but is in bad repair.

The Chancel has an open roof of tolerable but not the original pitch. The east window lately repaired, is Decorated, of three lights. The Altar is plain oak, raised on two steps

above the level of the chancel, which descends with two more into the nave. Over the Altar is an oblong tablet, with a square dripstone of Decorated date, probably for the reception of some piece of sculpture now destroyed. There is an Early English piscina, of the pointed trefoil form, but broken. On the north side of the Altar is a plain bracket. On either side of the chancel are three elegant lancet lights, with a string-course running below them. The south-west window had a low side-opening under it, which is plainly visible on the outside, and in the inside the sill is brought down to form a seat, with a sort of elbow or stone desk, for a book.

Section of East Window.

Dripstone to Tablet in Chancel.



Exterior and Interior of the low Side Window.

The Chancel-Arch is pointed, transition Norman.

The Screen, Debased, about James I., painted stone colour.

The Nave has a flat ceiling, which conceals an oak roof of good pitch, and of early character, though plain; it appears to be of the fourteenth century. On the north wall are two large arches and a smaller one, which formerly opened into an aisle now destroyed. On the south side are two square-headed windows of three lights each. This side is said to have been rebuilt in the sixteenth century. At the west end are two elegant single lancets, now concealed inside by an ugly gallery.

Roof of Nave.

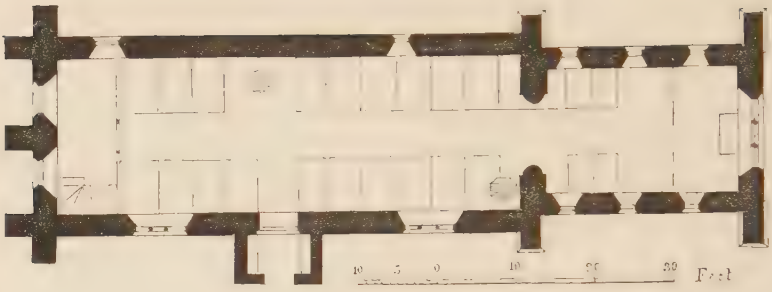
Near the west end, on the north side, is another lancet window blocked up. The pulpit is of the same date, and in the same style as the screen; the hourglass-stand remains. The seats are mostly open, of plain oak; there are a few large deal pews, one of which contains a stove. The Font is plain Norman, of good dimensions, with a circular basin; it rests on one step. The porch, which is on the south side, is late and bad; it is surmounted by a plain Latin cross, and entered by a square-headed door. At the west end is a belfry of lath and plaster, containing two bells, on one of which is inscribed, in Lombardic characters, "Sancta Maria ora pro nobis." The design of the west front with its two lancet windows, divided by a tall buttress up the centre, with two small buttresses at each of the angles, has been often and justly admired.

Section of South Door

Section of Lancet Window

In the Church-yard is a fine elm tree.

G. S. MASTER, B.N.C.



Ground Plan of the Church

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

From the Gentleman's Magazine, October, 1799, communicated by Sir Henry Ellis, and here reprinted with his kind permission.

Ellesfield lies about three miles and an half from Oxford, on the summit of a hill, and is remarkable for little else than the beauty of its situation. In the Domesday Survey it is written Esefeld, perhaps from the Saxon heꝛt-ꝑelꝺ, as it overlooks its neighbourhood. Allowing this, we have here a flagrant instance of the contempt with which the Norman scribes treated the Saxon names of our towns and villages. With politic and capricious views, they frequently miswrote them. In the Monasticon Ang. it is spelt Helsefeld, and Elsefeld.

This church of Elsefeld had been consecrated in the year 1273, by R. bishop of Cloyne, in Ireland, delegated by the bishop of Lincoln.

Universis presentes literas, &c. R. miseracione divina Clonen. episcopus, &c. Noveritis nos vice venerabilis patris R. Dei gracia Lincoln. episc. ecclesiam de Elsefeld septimo id. Julii, anno Dom. MCCLXXIII. dedicasse, et recepisse a procuratore rectoris dicte ecclesie duas marcas nomine procuracionis, racione dedicationis ecclesie, &c.[p]

In . . . . William, son of William de Stratford, with consent of Benet his wife, and William his son, gave to the priory of St. Frideswide the

[p] Ex Chartular. S. Frideswidæ in Ædc Christi, Oxon. ap. Kennett, p. 106. Parochial Antiquities, vol. ii. p. 164.

third[q] part of the village of Elsfield, and afterwards his whole possessions in that manor, excepting one messuage, which he gave to the nunnery of Stodley[r]. Henry the First confirmed[s] in 1132 William de Stratford's gift of a fifth of this manor, and granted to the priory the chapels of Hedington, Marston, and Binsey to which the Empress Maud added the chapel of Ellesfield. King John confirmed these[t], and his charter adds, "in Elsefeld unam virgatam terræ cum pertinentiis suis, et de molendino ejusdem villæ quatuor solidos." The chapel of Elsfield, however, seems, by a deed here copied from Dugdale's Monasticon[u], to have been originally given to St. Frideswide's by Hugh de Ellesfield. "Omnibus, &c. Hugo de Elesfeld, salutem. Sciatis me reddidisse, &c. Deo, & beatæ Mariæ, et sanctæ Frideswidæ, de Oxeneford, &c. capellam de Elsefeld, quæ ad ecclesiam beatæ Frideswidæ pertinet, &c. et ipsi canonici invenient mihi & capellæ de Elsefeld imperpetuum capellanum qui assidue ibi sit & capellæ deserviat. Iidem etiam canonici concesserunt mihi et capellæ de Elsefeld imperpetuum, ut pauperum quæ in villa de Elsefeld moriuntur corpora in cimeterio capellæ de Elsefeld sepeliantur, & aliorum, qui ibi sepeliri voluerint de eadem parochia. Testibus," &c.

Possessions at Elsefield were given, with other places, to the chapel of St. George, in Oxford castle, by its founder, Robert de Oilgi, or Oilli, the elder. But, in 1149, Robert de Oilli, his nephew, made a new assignment of his uncle's gifts, and what the elder Robert had given to the seculars of St. George's, the younger transferred to the regulars of Oseney[x].

In 1240, Roger de Ellendon was presented to this vicarage by the prior and convent of St. Frideswide. The prior and convent presented another vicar in 1251.

In the hundred rolls temp. Edward 1. the following persons are enumerated as holding land in Elsefield:—The prior of S. Frideswide, the fifth part of the manor; the prioress of Stodley, three farms; Lady Margaret de Rollright, part of the manor, probably the other four-fifths. Among the names of tenants, which it is not necessary to repeat here, occurs Roger le Despenser, holding under S. Frideswide's.

[q] It was but a *fifth*, according to Henry the First's confirmation, Mon. Ang. i. 175. from the Register of St. Frideswide's in the library of C.C.C.

[r] Paroch. Antiquities, vol. i. p. 462.

[s] Mon. Angl. i. 175, 981.

[t] Ib. i. 982.

[u] Ibid. i. 176.

[x] Parochial Antiquities, vol. i. p. 142.

In the valor of 1291 (usually called Pope Nicholas's) the vicarage of Elsefield is valued at viij marks[y]; and in the Liber Regis Henrici VIII. at 6*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*

In 1295, the vicarage having suffered much depreciation in value, in consequence of some years of scarcity, the prior and canons augmented the portion of the vicar by a quarter and a half of bread-corn, and the same quantity of barley, at the feasts of S. Michael Our Lady, and Pentecost, till the living should return to its old value.

Pateat universis, quod cum dominus Willielmus de magna Rollyndritht perpetuus vicarius ecclesie de Elsefeld, quam religiosi viri dominus prior et conventus monasterii S. Frideswide, Oxon. tanquam propriis usibus appropriatam detinent, reverendo patri Domino Olivero Dei gracia Lincolniensi episcopo super vicarie sue exilitate conquestus fuisset, tandem inter dictum vicarium querulum ex parte una, et prefatos religiosos ex altera, memorata querela in forma subscripta amicabili composicione quievit. Videlicet, quod dicti religiosi cognito quod porcio dicte vicarie propter quosdam annos steriles parochianorumque inopiam jam de novo diminuta fuisset, compassionis et caritatis intuitu, tria quarteria bladi apud S. Frideswidam Oxon. seu apud grangiam suam de Elsefeld, sine contradictione vel impedimento quolibet exsolvenda subscriptis terminis concesserunt, videlicet, ad festum S. Michaelis dimidium quarterium frumenti, et dimidium quarterium ordei, ac tantundem ad festum beate virginis, ita que tantundem ad festum Pentecostes, de bono blado ac etiam competente sine fraude qualicunque. Ita tamen quod si contingat dictam vicariam sic ad statum redire pristinum, ut ad ipsius vicarii congruam sustentacionem sufficiat, ut solebat, occasione concessionis prefate ad solucionem dicti bladi memorati religiosi nullatenus teneantur. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla dicti prioris et conventus et vicarii huic scripto in modum cirographi confecto sunt alternatim appensa, et ad majorem rei evidenciam sigillum domini archidiaconi Oxon. eidem est procuratum apponi. Dat. Oxon. xv. kalend. Febr. an. Dom. millesimo ducentesimo nonagesimo quinto[z].

A.D. 1363. 37, 38, Edward III. An inquisition was taken at Brill about the state of the forests of Shotover and Stowode, and the trespasses committed in them, on the oaths of Robert Gannage, locum tenens for John Appulby keeper of the forest, J. Thorlton, W. Doffeld, T. Man, &c.,

[y] MS. Hatton in Bibl. Bodl. LXXXIX. folio 142.
[z] Ex Chartular. S. Frideswidæ in Ædc Christi, Oxon. p. 106.

who say that William Wyke of Ellesfeld, came by night within the bounds of the forest of Stowode, on Palm Sunday of the previous year, with bow and arrows, for the purpose of poaching the wild animals belonging to the king, and Henry Burstall forester, caught him. And they say that certain villages, of which Ellesfeld is one, are out of the forest, and have no right of common in the forest, but they take their pigs into the woods of the king, in certain proportions, Oke (Noke) 12 pigs, price 18*s.*; Islep 20, price 32*s.*; Wodeton 6, price 9*s.*; Ellesfeld 8, price 12*s.*, &c. And they say, that where the foresters have been accustomed of old to have their pasture on the manors of their lords, as at Ellesfeld, &c., the value thereof is to be deducted from the value of the manors. And they say, that in the time of Robert de Ildesle, the trees were prostrated for the expences, and for the hospice for boys at Abingdon, of the foundation of the king[a].

In 1381, a dispute arose between the prior of St. Frideswide's and the vicar of Elsfield. The vicar entered a suit against the prior and convent, for keeping in their hands the whole right of the said church of Elsfield. Upon this the convent made an exemplification of an agreement made between their predecessors in the year 1295, by which the prior and canons, appropriators of the church, agreed to augment the portion of the vicar by additional allowance of one quarter and an half of bread-corn, and the like quantity of barley, at three seasons yearly.

From Dr. Rawlinson's MS. Collections for an History of Oxfordshire, I have extracted the following *memoranda*, which throw some light on the history of property there. "Ellesfield.—This place gave a surname to an ancient family that sometime lived here, for I find that one Gilbert de Ellesfield lived here in King Edward the First's time, who married Joan, the daughter of Sir William de Bereford, knt., living at Brightwell, in this county; but it did not long continue in this name, for William, a grandchild of the aforesaid Gilbert, dying without male issue, it came to . . . . who married Anne, co-heiress of the said William; and Juliana, the other co-heiress, was married to one Thomas de Loundrers (as appears by the descent), but I suppose that this lordship by partition, came to Anne, who also dying without male issue, it came to John Hore, of Childerley, co. Cambridge, who married Joane, the daughter and heir of Anne. This John, and Gilbert, his son, resided altogether there. Not long after this, about the beginning of the reign

[a] Ex Cartul. de Borstall, f. 111. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 140.

of Henry VII., their male line failed, and this lordship with other lands came to the Pudseys, for Edith, niece and heir to the last Gilbert (being the daughter of John Hore, his brother), residing at Ellsfield, taking a particular fancy (being then a widow without issue) to Rowland Pudsey, a younger son of Henry Pudsey, of Barford and Bolton, in Yorkshire, then a student at the University of Oxford, and a gentleman finely accomplished, married him, by which means their posterity have ever since enjoyed it."

Of this family was Hugh de *Puteaco*, or *Pudsey*, bishop of Durham, 1153, who for 3000 marks purchased of Richard I. the earldom of Northumberland for his life, but was, not long after, deprived of it, because he contributed only 2000 pounds in silver towards the king's ransom at his return from the Holy War. See Gibson's Camden, II. 960, 1104.

In 1645, Michael Pudsey, Esq., died here at the age of 84, and was buried in the chancel, and there is an inscription on a brass plate to his memory, with his coat of arms, inserted in the middle of an old gravestone brought from Ensham Abbey, round the margin of which are the remains of this inscription in black letter :—

"Hic : jacet : Frater : Johannes : de : Chiltenham : quondam : Abbas : hujus : loci : cujus : anime : propitietur : Deus :"

John de Chiltenham was elected abbot of Ensham in 1316, and resigned in 1330 [b].

Sir George Pudsey, knt. recorder of Oxford in 1685, was the last of the family who resided here. He sold the manor and estate, of about 1200*l.* *per annum*, to Lord North (father of Lord Guildford) for 25,000*l.*[c]

Among the later vicars, Mr. Francis Wise, eminent as an antiquary and a Saxonist, should not be forgotten. A short life of him may be seen in the Lives of Leland, Hearne, and Wood, vol. i. part ii. p. 26. Some additional anecdotes may be found of him in Mr. Nichols's Anecdotes of Bowyer; and a singular account of Dr. Johnson's visit to him at Elsfield, in Mr. Boswell's Life of the Doctor, 2nd 8vo. edit. vol. i., p. 236.

In the last century it was in the patronage of the Earl of Guildford, and still continues in the same family. It was certified to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty to be of the yearly value of £20. In the returns to the Commissioners in 1832 it is valued at £215, and the population is reckoned at 185.

[b] Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. ii. p. 177. [c] MS. Rawl. in Bibl. Bodl.

KENSINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NOKE.

PATRON.

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. Giles.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN.

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY.

Noke Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	36	0	by	16	0
Chancel	14	0	by	14	3

This is a small Church, consisting of a Chancel and Nave, with a small bell-turret at the west end. It was originally Early English, but has been so much modernized that hardly any of the Early English features are now visible.

Chancel—the east window is square-headed, of two lights, modern, but with the *sill* of the Early English window. In the south wall is a plain double lancet, under one square head inside. The chancel-arch is apparently Early English, ill proportioned, and misshapen from the settlement of the side walls. The roof is ceiled.

Nave—there is one obtusely-arched lancet window at the west end. The bell-turret is square, built of wood, and plastered

on the outside, with a stone-tiled capping. There is a north door stopped up, and a south one with porch, of plain Early English work. On the north side of the chancel-arch is a Perpendicular niche, low down. The roof is of good construction, and appears to be early, though the timbers are roughly finished off: it is covered with Stonesfield slates.

The Font is Early English, of a cylindrical form, larger in circumference at the vertex than at the base, and it stands on a round base, the upper edge of which is chamfered. Its position is between the north and south doors, a little to the west; it is lined with lead, and has a drain, but a pewter basin is used.

The Pulpit is of carved oak, in the Italian style of James I. The seats are old, open, of oak, with square ends and good mouldings, with book-boards. There is a great gallery shutting out all the west end. In the splay of the north-east window is an iron hourglass-stand.

In the chancel is a mutilated recumbent figure of a man in stone, of the time of James I., which, together with a small brass now let into the wall just above, used to be in a chapel which formerly stood on the north side of the chancel, but of which no vestige now remains, though an account of it is given below in the Historical Notices. The brass is to Johanna Bradshawe and her two husbands, William Manwayringe and Henry Bradshawe. She rebuilt the chapel, and died A.D. 1598. In the chest is an old Bible in black letter, not now used.

S. ROOKE, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Noke is usually spelt in ancient writings Oke or Ake. Within this parish was a considerable estate comprehended in the original grant of the liberties or fee of Islip, made by Edward the Confessor to the Church of St. Peter, Westminster, and those inhabitants did suit at the Abbot's court.

The manor of Noke was granted by the Conqueror to William Earl Warren; from him it passed, through a series of undistinguished pro-

prietors, to Sampson Foliot, in the time of Henry III., who was sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and one of the commissioners to enquire into the tenure of all the lands in Oxfordshire. From him the manor and advowson of the church descended to Henry le Ties, a nobleman who had also obtained a grant of Sherborn, and was summoned to Parliament 15 Edward II., but having joined in the northern insurrection, he was taken prisoner and suffered death at London. The hamlet of Noke, with his other estates, descended to his sister and heiress, Alice, wife of Warine de Lisle. From this family it came by marriage to Thomas Lord Berkley, who was married at the age of fourteen to Margaret de L'isle, aged eight years, A.D. 1366, at Wengrave, Bucks. At his decease it passed to Elizabeth, his only child, the wife of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. On the division of his estates, after his decease, Noke was sold, and passing through several hands became the property of the Fermours, by whom it was sold to Benedict Winchcombe, before mentioned, who, having no children, devised it to his nephew, Benedict Hall, Esq. His descendants continued to enjoy these estates till the following century, when they were alienated to Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, who pulled down the family mansion, or manor-house.

In the 1st Edward VI., according to the Chantry-roll, Noke contained "sixty houselying people," [or persons accustomed to receive the Holy Communion, probably at that period about a third of the population,] and that there were certain lands of the annual value of twopence, given by some unknown person towards finding a lamp-light at the Altar within the Church, but that no ornaments, plate, jewels, or stock, belonged thereto.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Joan Bradshaw, a lady then resident in the village, and the grandmother of the lord of the manor, repaired the Church, and erected a chapel on the north side of the chancel, for a burying-place for herself and her descendants of the Winchcombe family. Here she was afterwards buried, anno 1598, and a sumptuous monument was erected. In the same chapel was a fair raised altar-tomb of black marble, on which was the effigy of a man lying on a cushion, for Benedict Winchcombe, who died 1623, bequeathing a sum of money for the repair of the Church, leaving one sister, Mary, his heiress, who married William Hall, Esq. This chapel being considered private property, and neglected by the descendants of the Halls, after the alienation

of their estate in the parish, it fell into decay, and was taken down by the consent of the feoffees of the Winchcombe charity. The materials were used for the repairs of the chancel, and some parts of the monuments affixed to the walls, where they still remain; but the tomb of Benedict Winchcombe was entirely done away with except part of his effigy, the figure being broken off at the knees[d].

RECTORS.	PATRONS.
— Walter, died 1272.	
1272. John de Draycote.	Sampson Foliot.
1293. Richard de Scireburn.	Henry Ties.
Richard de Southampton, died 1320.	
1320. John de Okele.	Henry Ties.
Henry de Emberton, died 1345.	
1345. Richard de Engleby.	Gerrard de L'isle.
1511. Edward Halsall,	Collated by the Bp. of Lincoln, by lapse.
William Ashfield, died 1529.	
1549. John Donyell.	Hy. Bradshaw, Esq., Attorney-General.
Robert Warland, died 1636.	Benedict Hall, Esq.
1636. Hugh Holden.	Benedict Hall, Esq.
John Gilder, died 1697.	
1689. Richard Vesey, B.D.	Martha May, of Kidlington.
1732. Charles Hall.	Francis Earl Godolphin, and Duchess of Marlborough.
1739. Gilbert Stephens, died 1773.	Charles Duke of Marlborough.
1773. Alexander Lichfield.	George Duke of Marlborough.
1804. Edward Turner.	George Duke of Marlborough.
1840. J. Carlisle.	George Duke of Marlborough.

At the general valuation of ecclesiastical benefices, 26 Henry VIII., the Rectory of Noke was valued at viij*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* In Bacon's Liber Regis, 1786, the clear yearly value is stated at 42*l.* In the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners it is valued at 90*l.*, and is in the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough. The population is 187.

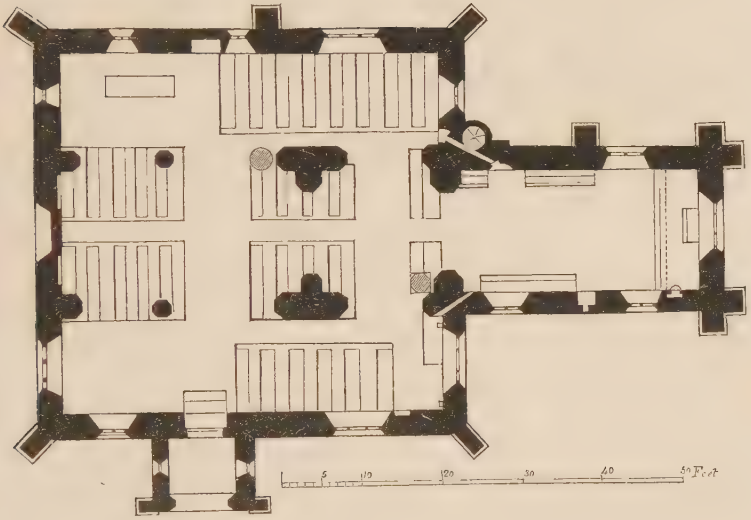
[d] Alderman Fletcher's MSS., at Oxford, ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 85.

BECKLEY.

PATRON.

THE REV. T. L. COOKE.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

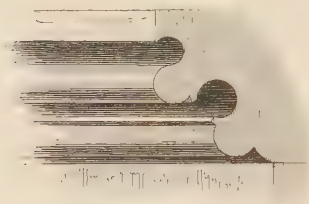


Ground-Plan of Church

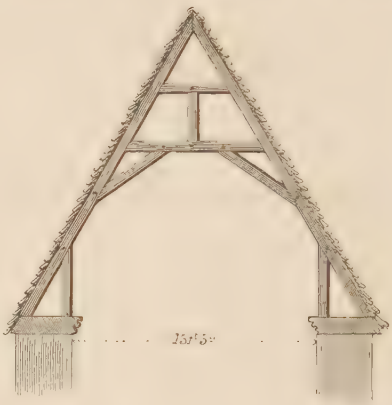
THIS Church is chiefly of the fourteenth century, but the nave was rebuilt late in the fifteenth. The tower is placed between the nave and the chancel, and the work is so plain that it is difficult to assign a date to it, but most probably it was built at the end of the fourteenth century, the period of transition from the Decorated to the Perpendicular style.

The CHANCEL is good Decorated, very similar in style to the south aisles of St. Mary Magdalene and of St. Aldate's churches in Oxford, which were built about 1320. The east window is of three lights, of flowing tracery; the side windows of two lights, in the same style. In the heads of these windows are some beautiful remains of painted glass of the fourteenth century. On the south side are two windows and a small

door, and a string, which is carried over the head of the door, forming a dripstone. Near the east end is a small plain piscina, with the projecting basin restored, and a narrow stone shelf. The Altar-platform is raised two steps; the Communion Table is of plain oak; the enclosed pews have lately been cleared out of the chancel, and re-placed by open seats against the walls, with desks in front of them. The roof is of plain timber, of the canted form, open to the ridge and ceiled to the rafters; it has only one tie-beam, and the wall-plates have Decorated mouldings. On the north side there is only one window, and an opening like a doorway, but not reaching to the ground.



Wall-plate in Chancel



Roof in Chancel.

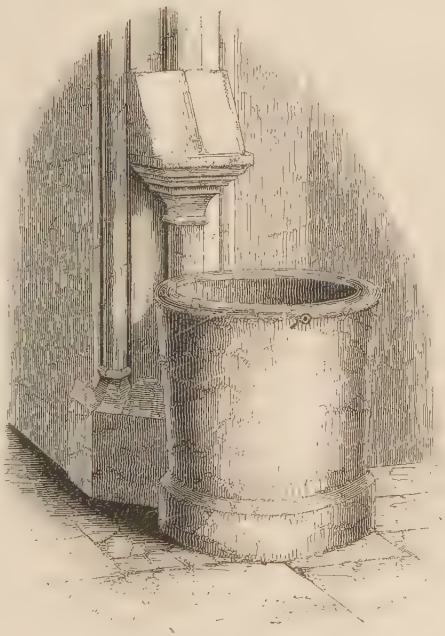
Tower—The chancel-arch and the other three arches of the tower are quite plain, recessed, and chamfered, the chamfers dying into the piers. The belfry windows are of two lights, quite plain, but these, as well as the masonry, appear to be Decorated work. The parapet and cornice are Perpendicular. The sanctus-bell hangs in a small opening, with a foliated

Turret North-east Angle

head just below the cornice and above the level of the windows. The staircase to the tower is in a very good round turret at the north-east angle. This appears to be early Perpendicular work.

The Nave is Perpendicular, about the time of Henry VII.; it has only two arches on each side, plain, on clustered pillars, with moulded caps. The clerestory windows are square-headed, of two lights. The roof appears to be original, but is partly hid by a plaster ceiling. The west door is good Perpendicular; over it is a Decorated window of three lights, quite plain, with mullions crossing in the head, but with a Decorated drip-stone: this window appears to have been preserved when the nave was rebuilt.

The Font is plain, round, and massive; it is placed against the north-east pillar of the nave, attached to which is a small stone desk, supported by a shaft of Perpendicular work; this appears to have been made for the purpose of carrying the book for the priest at a christening. There is also a wooden desk attached to the south-east pillar, probably for placing the book of Homilies upon.



Font and Stone Desk.

The North Aisle is Perpendicular, but earlier than the nave, the east window being in a style of transition from Decorated; and the roof is below the points of the arches; the windows are early Perpendicular, rather clumsy; the north door, of the same age, is now stopped.

The South Aisle is partly Decorated and partly Perpendicular; the two western windows are of the same style as the chancel; the two eastern ones are Perpendicular, of three lights, with the heads nearly flat. On each side of the east window are corbels for images, marking the site of an Altar. In the head of this window are some good old painted quarries.

There has been an opening from each aisle through the wall by the side of the chancel-arch in an oblique direction towards the high Altar, of the kind called a squint, or lately a hagioscope; that from the south aisle is of the usual size and form, and about level with the eye; that on the north side is more remarkable, the opening in the chancel being of the size and form of a doorway, but not reaching quite to the ground, and there is a shallow projection on the outside to make room for the squint; the opening from the aisle is an actual doorway, giving access also to the tower staircase. Both these openings are blocked up, and partly concealed.

The South Door and Porch are Perpendicular, with a good small window on the east side, and a niche for a stoup, with the square stone basin remaining perfect on the east side of the door. The Pulpit and Reading-desk are of plain oak, painted red; this paint should be cleaned off. The hourglass-stand remains. The seats are mostly good old open ones, of solid oak, but a few have had deal boxes built upon them, which ought to be removed. There is a very ugly west gallery and staircase, with two absurd wings to it, filling up half an arch on each side, for

South Door.

the purpose of keeping the singers warm and comfortable. The points of the tower-arches are concealed by a ringing-loft, which is so rotten that the ringers are afraid to stand in it, and obliged to ring from the ground, and which is therefore merely a great deformity to the Church, without being of any use whatever.

Few Churches could be restored to their original beauty at so trifling a cost as Beckley. The chancel has already been done, in a great degree, and in good taste, and the thanks of our Society are due to the incumbent, especially for restoring to view the valuable original timber roof, which may serve as a useful model. I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The village of Beckley is situated about five miles north-east from Oxford, on the borders of Otmoor. The Roman road from Allchester to Dorchester passed through this parish, and considerable remains of it may still be distinctly traced, particularly across Otmoor and in some arable land on the hill in a direct line from it, full particulars of which will be found in Mr. Hussey's excellent account of the Roman remains in the neighbourhood of Oxford, lately published by the Ashmolean Society. The British saint Donanverdh[a] is recorded to have been buried at Beckley, which may be considered as proof that this part of the country had become Christian before the invasion of the Saxons. The parish of Beckley formed part of the hereditary possessions of King Alfred, bequeathed by him to his kinsman Osserth, in his will, which is still extant, and has been printed by the University of Oxford[b]. In the time of Edward the Confessor it belonged to Wigod de Wallingford. After the Norman conquest, Beckley being the capital seat of the honor, which afterwards bore the name of its possessors, De Iveri and De S. Walery, formed part of the grant to Robert de Oily, on his marriage with the daughter of Wigod de Wallingford, and was transferred by him to his sworn brother in arms, Roger de

[a] Kennett, vol. i. p. 30; and Leland, Collect., vol. ii. p. 369.

[b] Will of King Alfred, 4to. p. 17.

Iveri[c]. In the Domesday survey it is thus entered, as translated by Bawdwen:—"The same (Roger de Ivery) holds Bechelie. There are six hides there. Land to seven ploughs. Now in the demesne two have ploughs and six bondmen, and eleven villanes, with six bordars, five ploughs. There are twenty acres of meadow; and pasture one mile long, and two quarentens broad. Wood one mile long, and a half broad. It was worth one hundred shillings, now eight pounds[d]."

Previous to this transfer to Roger de Iveri, Robert de Oily had however given two parts of all the tithe of Beckley, and half a hide of land in Stodeley, belonging to Beckley, to his new foundation of a college, dedicated to St. George, in Oxford castle. This grant was confirmed by Roger de Iveri, and they were considered as joint benefactors, the whole foundation being afterwards merged in Osney abbey[e].

Roger de Iveri died in 1079, and the honor of Beckley became the property successively of his three sons, Roger, Hugh, and Jeffery[f], who all died without issue, the last named Jeffrey in 1112, and the property then fell to the king, who granted it to Guy de S. Walery, who was related by marriage to the family of the Conqueror[g]. He died in 1141, leaving his possessions to his son Reginald, a supporter of the Empress Maud, for which he was deprived of part of his possessions by King Stephen: but these were restored to him by Henry II.[h] He was one of the barons convened to the council of Clarendon, being an opponent of S. Thomas of Canterbury, and was sent with other nobles to Lewis King of France, and to the Pope, but without success. He died in 1166, leaving his possessions, including Beckley, to his son Bernard, who being beyond the seas at the time of his father's decease, the king issued a precept to secure his rights and properties till he should return, which is printed by Kennett[i]. Reginald de S. Walery also left one daughter, Maud, wife of William de Braose, a potent baron, who "for her bold and resolute behaviour to King John, was miserably famished, with her eldest son, in Windsor Castle," in 1210.[j]

Reginald de S. Walery granted the church of Beckley to the Preceptory of Knights' Templars at Sandford, as appears by the charter which is printed from Wood's MS. in Bibl. Bodl. 10. in Warton's History

[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 75—77.
[d] Ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 102.
[e] Regist. Osney, MS. fol. I.
[f] Domesday Book, and Oseney Reg. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 85.
[g] Kennett, vol. i. p. 113.
[h] Ibid., p. 156.
[i] Ibid., p. 169.
[j] Matt. Westm., sub an.

of Kiddington, p. 34, and again by Dunkin, vol. i. p. 95; but it seems to have been speedily restored to his family, as in 1226 it was given to the prioress and convent of Studley in this parish.

A.D. 1184, 30, 31. Henry II., Bernard de S. Walery founded a nunnery at Stodley in this neighbourhood, which he endowed with half a hide of land in Horton.

A.D. 1189, 1. Richard I., on the return of Bernard de S. Walery from Normandy, his lands, which had been disseized, were restored to him by the new king: who at Christmas, after his coronation, passed over to Normandy, to prepare for his expedition to the Holy Land, in which pious adventure he was attended by Bernard de S. Walery. For the better success of his expedition to the Holy Land, in his passage through France, he, with his wife Alianore, laid the foundation of a monastery called Godstow, the name derived from that in this county, built on the land which he gave for that purpose to Henry II. His new monastery was situated on the river Breston, between Picardy and Normandy, in the duchy of Eu.

A.D. 1207, 8, 9. King John, Thomas de S. Walery gave to the nunnery of Stodley, of his father's foundation, three shillings a year rent in Beckley; and by another charter he gave to the said nuns, in every week, one carriage of dead fuel in his wood of Horton [in this parish].

A.D. 1226, 10, 11. Henry III., Robert Earl of Dreux, [and ex-duke of Lorraine,] lord of the honor of St. Walery, i. e. the manors of Ambrosden, Horton, Beckley, &c. and Allanore [daughter of Thomas de S. Walery] his wife, gave to the nuns of Stodley the church of Beckley. After this date frequent entries occur of presentations to the church of Beckley, by the prioress of Stodley[k]. But the advowson returned for a considerable period to the lords of the manor (see p. 213), though the priory afterwards recovered it.

A.D. 1227, on the sequestration of the estates of Robert ex-duke of Lorraine, &c. for high treason, the manor of Beckley, together with the whole honor of S. Walery, were committed to the care of Richard Earl of Cornwall, the brother of King Henry III.; and in 1230 the same was granted to him in perpetuity, the king specially covenanting that if it should so happen that it should be necessary to restore these lands to the said duke, for the sake of peace, the earl or his heirs should have a

[k] Mon. Ang., vol. i. p. 487.

reasonable compensation in proportion to their value at the expense of the crown[1].

In consequence of this charter it is probable that Earl Richard enlarged or rebuilt the ancient mansion in this village, heretofore belonging to the lords of S. Walery, in a style of magnificence corresponding to his princely fortune and the ideas of the age, as it is evident, from several charters and other instruments dated from this place, that both he and his son Edmund made it one of their principal residences. It is also probable that at this period the extensive park eastward of the village was enclosed or enlarged. A considerable tract of country is still known by the name of The Park.—[Of the house here mentioned as the residence of Richard King of the Romans, brother of Henry III., some portions were standing within a few years, and the site may still be traced with tolerable clearness by the moat and earthwork. The last piece of masonry which remained was a round tower, long used as a pigeon-house, of which there is an engraving in Mr. Dunkin's work.]

A.D. 1231, Richard Earl of Cornwall was married to Isabella Countess of Gloucester, sister of William Mareschall, Earl of Pembroke[m].

A.D. 1253. The king passing over to Gascoign committed the custody of his whole kingdom to Richard Earl of Cornwall and Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York; which Earl Richard granted to the monks of Okeburry a release of suite and service within his honor of Walingford, which charter has a seal appending, bearing an impress of the said earl, armed on horseback, with a lion rampant crowned on his surcoat, inscribed "Sigillum Richardi Comitis Cornubiæ."

A.D. 1256. Richard Earl of Cornwall was elected King of the Romans on St. Hilary day, at Francfort. To secure this honour he had compounded with the electors for large sums of money: the Archbishop of Cologne 12,000 marks, the Archbishop of Mentz 8,000, the Duke of Bavaria 18,000, and some of the other electors 8,000, computing each mark at twelve shillings [making the enormous sum of £27,600 in the money of that day, equal to nearly a million sterling of our money.]

A.D. 1257, 41, 42. Henry III., Richard Earl of Cornwall, lord of the manors of Ambrosden, Beckley, &c., having been elected King of the Romans in the preceding year, the Archbishop of Cologne, the Bishop of Liege, the Bishop of Utrecht, the Earl of Holland, and other nobles, came over to conduct him to his new kingdom; upon which he set sail

[1] Placit. de quo Warrant., 13 E. I. rot. 25. [m] Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 425.

at Yarmouth, April 29th, with forty-eight ships, and May the 5th arrived at Dort in Holland, thence to Aquisgrane, where on Ascension-day, May the 17th, he was solemnly crowned, with Senchia his lady empress, by Conrade Archbishop of Cologne[n]. An account of his voyage and coronation is given in a letter from himself to Prince Edward, dated from Aquisgrane, May 18.[o]

A.D. 1258. Richard King of the Romans having his treasure this year computed, was found able to expend a hundred marks a day for ten years, besides his standing revenues in England and Almaign[p].

A.D. 1261, 45 and 46 Henry III. At this period we find Richard King of the Romans residing at his house in Beckley, and acting as umpire in a dispute between Roger de Amory and the abbey of Oseney, respecting the manor of Weston, which he settled by a compromise, the abbey retaining the manor but paying 300 marks for it.

The same year, Nov. 9th, died Senchia wife of Richard King of the Romans. About Candlemas there was a Parliament held at London, where the king and barons referred their differences to the arbitration of the King of France, and Richard King of the Romans. [From this period the history of this great man is so much mixed up with that of the country and of Europe, that it is not necessary for our purpose to attempt to follow it. He was reported to be the wealthiest man in Europe at that period. He died in 1272, at Berkhamstead, after a long paralytic illness. He had been so great a patron of Walter de Merton, that this munificent prelate, in 1274, founded his college in Oxford, "pro salute animarum Henrici quondam regis Angliæ nec non Germani sui Ricardi Romanorum regis inclyti et hæredum suorum."]

A.D. 1268. There was now, by the king's assent, an aid imposed on the inhabitants of Beckley, and all other tenants of Richard King of the Romans, to raise the money he had expended for his redemption when a prisoner to Montfort's party; and this illustrious prince sailed over again to his kingdom of Almaign, and there on June 16, married [his third wife] Beatrice niece to the Archbishop of Cologne [and daughter of Theodoric de Falkemonte[q].] On August 3rd he arrived at Dover, where the nobility with great honour received him[r].

A.D. 1272. After his death, on Wednesday before Palm Sunday, an inquisition was taken of his lands in these parts, and it was returned upon

[n] Chron. Thos. Wikes, sub an.
[o] Annal. Mon. Burton., p. 376, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 356. Sandford 95.
[p] Kennett, vol. i. p. 358.
[q] Leland's Collect., vol. ii. p. 419.
[r] Kennett, vol. i. p. 378.

oath, that the manors of Beckley, &c. were held by barony of the honor of St. Walery; that the advowsons of the churches of Beckley and Ambrosden belonged to the said manors; and the advowson of the church of Mixbury to the manor of Willarston; (and indeed it was seldom seen that the possession of the manor and patronage of the church were in several hands, before the perpetual advowsons were given to the monks;) .... that his son Edmund was next heir, and on the feast-day of S. Stephen last past was of the age of twenty-two years. This Edmund Earl of Cornwall having succeeded to the large possessions of his father, continued to make Beckley a frequent place of residence. He died at his convent of Asherugge, on the 1st of October, 1300, without legitimate issue; his honours and lands fell to the king, Edward I., whom he had before declared his heir. In his treasury were found infinite sums of gold and silver, and great store of jewels.

The following account of the honor and village of Beckley is given in the Hundred Rolls, 7 Edward I., A.D. 1279:—

The honor of St. Walerie de Becklyee.

The jurors say, that the lord Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, holds the honor of S. Walerie, which descended to him in hereditary right, after the death of his father, Richard Earl of Cornwall, as his son and heir. Of which honor the said Edmund holds several manors in the hundred of Bolendon.

Beckley. Also the said Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, holds the manor of Beckeley, with the advowson of the church in demesne of the lord the king in capite, with all the appurtenances, by military service, whereof he holds in demesne two carucates of land, with a certain park, and one outwood, which is called Horhemewood. Also there are holden of the same earl, in the said vill. three virgates and a half of land, in villenage of the said earl, doing service yearly to the said earl, at his will.

Also there are holden of the same earl, at the will of the said earl, nine cottages doing service yearly to the said earl, at the will of the said earl, and they are holden of the lord the king in capite.

Free tenants. Also there is holden freely of the same earl, one virgate of land, paying yearly eight shillings suit to the court of Beckley, from three weeks to three weeks, and royal service as much as pertains to the same tenements. Also there are two carucates of land, and eight cottages pertaining to the church, doing royal service, as much as pertain to the same tenements.

A.D. 1301, 29, 30. Edward I., the king presented to the church of Beckle, as having the honor of S. Walery escheated to him[s].

A.D. 1308, 1, 2. Edward II.[t] Within the first year of his reign, the king made a grant in fee of the whole earldom of Cornwall, the honour of St. Walerie, with Beckley the capital manor, and all other lands which Edmund Earl of Cornwall held at the time of his death, as well in reversion as possession, to Piers de Gavestone, who held them for some years, notwithstanding the strong remonstrances of the barons, who eventually put him to death in 1312. On his death, the barony of S. Walerie reverted to the crown, when the king immediately granted it to his new creature, Hugh Despenser, senior, who accordingly obtained a charter for the manor and park of Beckley, to be held upon the same services as Edmund Earl of Cornwall had performed for them.

A.D. 1315, 7, 8. Edward II. Sir John de Handlo, of Borstall, presented a clerk to the church of Beckley, the head of the barony of St. Walerie: which was granted to him by his potent friend and relation, Hugh Despenser, senior[u]. [From the style of the chancel and some other parts of this church, it would appear to have been rebuilt during the time that this Sir John de Handlo held it.]

A.D. 1337, 11 and 12 Edward III. Sir John de Handlo holding the manor of Beckley during his life, William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, obtained now from the king a grant in fee of the said manor of Beckley, in reversion after the death of Sir John de Handlo[x]. This Sir John died in 1346, leaving Edmund de Handlo his grandson (by Richard his eldest son, who died in his father's life, and Isabel his wife) his next heir, at this time seven years of age[y]; he died in his minority, in 1355, and his manors descended to his sisters Margery and Elizabeth. Margery was married twice, first to Gilbert Chastelein, secondly to John de Apullby. Elizabeth was married to Sir Edmund de la Pole, younger son of Sir William de la Pole, of Kingston-upon-Hull[z]. But several of the manors of Edmund de Handlo were held for her life of Isabel his mother, daughter of Almaric de S. Amand, who attended the king at the battle of Cressy, and did good service there. In 1357 we find this Almaric lord of the adjoining manors of Beckley, co. Oxon, and Grendon, co. Bucks, which having formed part of the possessions of Edmund de Handlo, were probably held in trust by Almaric for his daughter Isabel and her chil-

[s] Kennett, vol. i. p. 494.
[t] Ibid., p. 509.
[u] Ibid., p. 532.
[x] Ibid., vol. ii. p. 69.
[y] Ibid., p. 89.
[z] Ibid., p. 114.

dren. It does not appear that the grant to the Earl of Salisbury was carried into effect.

A.D. 1352, the prioress and nuns of Studley procured licence to appropriate this church to their convent from John Bishop of Lincoln. A vicarage was then instituted, and an annual pension allotted to the vicar, while all oblations, Easter offerings, &c., together with all tithes in Beckley, and in the hamlets of Horton, Studley, and Marlake, were reserved to the prioress and convent[a].

A.D. 1363, 37 and 38 Edward III. An inquisition was held at Brehull (Brill), of the state of the royal forests of Shotover and Stowode. At this period John de Appulby was keeper of the forest. The jurors say that certain villages, of which Beckley is one, are out of the forest, and have no common in the forest, but they take their pigs into the woods of the king, in certain numbers, of which Beckley ten, price fifteen shillings. And they find that where the foresters have been accustomed of old to have pasture on the manors of the lords, as at Beckley, &c., the value of their pasturage should be deducted from that of the manors.

A.D. 1379, 1 Richard II. From an inquisition taken at Woodstock in this year it appears that this manor, with its appurtenances, was held by Sir Nicholas Bonde, Knight, of Edward Prince of Wales, and Joan, his wife, the father and mother of the king; and that the said Nicholas again enfeeoffed the said prince thereof, who, in 44 Edward III. enfeeoffed the king of England with the same[b]. This estate appears to have then remained for a considerable time in the immediate possession of the crown; for in 1385, Richard II. granted letters patent to Richard Forester of Beckley, empowering him to take customs of all wares that shall pass through the north street in the parish of St. Clement, near Oxford, to repair the highway between that city and Headington hill[c]; and in 1457, King Henry VI. presented Archbishop Chichele with twelve trees from his park at Beckley, towards building All Souls College[d].

From this period we have been unable to trace any particular notice of this manor, until the time of Henry VIII., when it became the property of Lord Williams, probably by a royal grant, as he was one

[a] Appropriatio eccl'sie de Bekkelegh priorisse et conventori de Stoddo 18 Kal. Maii 1352. Reg. Gynwell. ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 97.

[b] Inquisit. post mortem, 1 Ric. II., No. 81.

[c] Peshall's Oxford, p. 286.

[d] Spencer's Life of Chichele, vol. ii. p. 169.

of the courtiers of that monarch, and a tool of Thomas Cromwell. From the inquisition taken at his death, it appears that he died in possession of the manors of Beckley and Horton, jointly valued at £24. 9s. 1d., with all reprisals, and that the same were held of the king, but by what services the jury were ignorant.

This estate then became the property of Henry Norreys, in right of his wife Margaret, the daughter and co-heiress of Lord Williams.

In the 40th of Elizabeth, Lord Norreys, and Margaret his wife, obtained licence of the queen to alienate the manors of Beckley and Sydenham to Sir Anthony Powlett and others, for certain uses; these, no doubt, related to a settlement of the same upon Francis his grandson, to whom his chief estates devolved on his death, A.D. 1601. The estate at Beckley comprised the manor, with 20 messuages, 10 tofts, 20 gardens, 200 acres of land, 400 of meadow, 600 of pasture, 600 of wood, 4000 in fields and plains, and £3 in rents [c]. By Bridget his wife, he left one sole daughter and heir, named Elizabeth, who became the wife of Edward Wray, Esq., of Glentworth, in the county of Lincoln. From an inquisition taken during the lives of these parties, it appears that this gentleman and his wife held the manor of Beckley of the king *in capite* by military service, and the park of Beckley for the fortieth part of a knight's fee. Their only daughter, Bridget, who inherited the title of Baroness Norreys, married Edward Sackville, Esq., second son to Edward, earl of Dorset: but the civil wars commencing, her husband ranged himself under the banners of King Charles and was wounded in the battle of Newbury, Sept. 20th., 1641. In 1646, accompanying a party to Kidlington, three miles from Oxford, he was taken prisoner by the parliament forces, and afterwards cowardly stabbed to death by a soldier at Chawley, near Abingdon, from whence he was taken to Witham and buried: he left no issue. His widow Bridget, by a second marriage, carried her numerous estates to Montague, earl of Lindsay, another noted partisan of the king and one of his privy council. He departed this life at Lord Camden's house, in Kensington, 25 July, 1666. By the before-mentioned Bridget, his second wife, he had issue, 1, James Lord Norreys, 2, Edward, who died young, 3, Captain Henry Bertie, and a daughter, named Mary, who married Charles Dormer, second Earl of Caernarvon, and died Nov. 29, 1709. In consequence of a previous settlement, the hereditary estates of the baroness

[c] Lethieullier's MS., No. 4701, B. 6, Ayscough's Catal.

Norreys devolved to her children after her decease, and the greater portion, including Beckley and Horton, became the property of James Lord Norreys, created by King Charles II., Earl of Abingdon, in which noble family the estate still remains[a].

In Pope Nicolas's taxation, A.D. 1291, the Church of Beckley was taxed at 10*l.*; and in the Inquisitiones Nonarum, taken A.D. 1342 (15 Edw. III.) at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d*; and at the valuation of ecclesiastical benefices, 26 Hen. VIII., this Church was valued at 16*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

The rectory impropriate, valued at £8., was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Croke, Esq., and alienated by his grandson to William Shillingford, alias Izode, or Izard, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The latter gentleman, a person of very considerable property, formed the rectory-house into a commodious habitation, which continued to be the principal residence of himself and his descendants for several generations, one of whom sold the impropriate rectory of Beckley to the duke of Bedford, whose successor again alienated it about 1700 to Edward Bee, Esq. The rectory devolved to the Rev. Dr. Leigh, Master of Balliol college, Oxford, by his marriage with the daughter and only child of Mr. Bee, from whom it descended to the Rev. T. L. Cooke, the present proprietor.

In 1718 this Church was served for £10. 10s. per annum, being an impropriation, as appears by a letter from the Rev. Mr. Watkins, minister there, quoted in Bacon's Liber Regis, but it was not certified into the Exchequer, or to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty. It is now valued at £112; population 776.

In this parish are the hamlets of Horton and Studley, which together contained in 1811 sixty-two houses, inhabited by seventy-five families, chiefly engaged in agriculture[b].

HORTON.

The hamlet of Horton chiefly consists of some farm-houses and cottages erected on the verge of a common or piece of waste land on the border of Otmoor, and is two miles distant from Beckley.

At a very early period a church or chapel was built for the use of the

[a] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 112, 4to. [b] Dunkin, vol. i. p. 124.

township, which was given by Wacheline Hareng, who then held it of Bernard de St. Walery, to the abbot and convent of Eynsham[c], in the reign of Henry II.

From the endowments of this chapel the monks of Eynsham afterwards reserved a pension of something more than four shillings per annum, as appears by the deed of confirmation granted by Hugh Wells bishop of Lincoln.

How long it continued to exist as a place of worship is uncertain; it is not mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, nor in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII. A tradition exists respecting its site, which is said to have been in a field still called Chapel Close. The inhabitants of the hamlet now usually attend at the chapel at Studley House.

In the year 1764 Margaret and Stephen Wheatland gave by will 230*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.* 3 per cent. consols, for teaching ten children of Beckley and Horton; which sum in 1823 appears to have been vested in the names of Thomas Nichols, — Stephens, and William Ledwell[d]. This is recorded in the Parliamentary Digest of the Reports of the Charity Commissioners, published in 1841.

STUDLEY.

The Priory

Studley is situated on a hill, a short distance above Horton, and is partly in the second division of the three hundreds of Ashendon, county of Bucks, and partly in the hundred of Bullington, in the county of

[c] Reg. Eynesham MS. cartg. 102. ap. Kennett, and ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 125.

[d] Dunkin's Oxfordshire, Appendix, No. 8.

Oxford: it is a chapelry of the vicarage of Beckley, and has been denominated such ever since the erection of a chapel here by Sir George Croke. The hamlet is fifteen miles west of Aylesbury, and seven miles north-east by east of Oxford. In 1803 that part in the county of Bucks was only assessed at 2s. 6d. in the pound, while the Oxfordshire portion was rated at 5s. 8d.

In the reign of King Ethelred, Studley, or Stodileye, or Estodeley, was the property of Ailmer, earl of Cornwall, said by Dugdale to be a nobleman of "singular piety[a]," and given in exchange to his kinsman Godwyne, A.D. 1005, for some lands in Eynsham, where he founded an abbey of the Benedictine order, and was buried in the church of the monastery[b].

At the Norman invasion, it was included in the honor bestowed upon Robert D'Oilly, who gave half a hide of land therein towards the endowment of St. George's church in Oxford castle. This donation was subsequently transferred to Oseney abbey, with the other estates belonging to that church, and confirmed by Jeffrey de Ivery, the superior lord, in the fourteenth year of King Stephen.

About the middle of the reign of Henry II., Bernard S. Walery, lord of this manor, and of the late barony of Ivery, founded a Benedictine nunnery in this place, which he dedicated to St. Mary, and endowed with half an hide of land.

For the history of this priory our limits compel us to refer to other works. It will be found in the Monasticon Anglicanum, vol. i. p. 486; Tanner's Notitia Monastica, p. 426; Dunkin's Hundred of Ploughley, vol. i. pp. 130, 179; and in the History of the Croke or Le Blount family, by Sir Alexander Croke, vol. i. pp. 408—437.

At the dissolution of the smaller religious houses, 26 Henry VIII., the excellent character of the inmates of this priory procured it the special recommendation of the Commissioners to royal favour. This averted its impending fate for a few years, but in 1540, 31 Henry VIII., it fell in the common ruin, Sir Jobson Williams having obtained from the affrighted sisters, assembled in common chapter, a deed of surrender on Nov. 9. of that year: this deed is printed by Dunkin, with a translation. The prioress and nuns were allowed pensions for their lives; that of the prioress was £16. 5s. 8d., equal to at least £325 of our money: those of the nuns varied from 26s. 8d. to 40s., and for

[a] Baronage, vol. i. p. 3, 254. [b] Mon. Ang., vol. i. p. 229.

shillings we may safely read pounds in reducing them to our present standard. Of these pensions only one continued to be claimed fifteen years after the dissolution.

In a little more than three months after the afflicted sisters had been driven forth from their habitation, the king, by letters patent, bearing date Feb. 26, in the thirty-first year of his reign, granted to John Croke and his heirs (inter alia) the site of the priory of Studley, the manor of Studley, the rectory of Beckley, and the advowson of the vicarage of Beckley, as fully as the prioress of Studley held them at the time of the dissolution.

Some fragments of the ancient buildings of the priory were dug up a few years since by Sir A. Croke, who made drawings and etchings of them, which he published in the History of his Family, vol. i. p. 437, and also presented a copy to our Society; they are chiefly of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and were apparently parts of the chapel.

The present appearance of Studley priory is that of a very picturesque Elizabethan house, beautifully situated. The Chapel is attached to one end of the house, and is quite of a domestic character, with square-headed transomed windows; it has a wooden bell-turret on the roof. Some of the seats are open, with carved poppies of Elizabethan work, among which is a cock: they are unusually tall, being five feet high. The Communion-table is plain, of the same age, with the slab still detached, according to the custom of that period: the pulpit with its canopy is of the same character. The hourglass-stand remains attached to one end of the reading-desk. At the west end of the chapel is a gallery with a screen under it, with balustres both above and below, all of the same style. This chapel has a flat plaster ceiling, and there is a loft over it, which appears to be the original arrangement. It was built in 1639.

The house may be generally described as a long range of buildings, constituting a centre and two wings; the latter divided into offices, stables, and other conveniences. Some portions of the interior of the building belonged to the old priory, as is indicated by the great thickness of the walls, one of which is seven feet thick. The central division, now formed into a handsome mansion, is considerably elevated, and the front commands an extensive view of the surrounding country, comprising Beckley, Otmoor, &c.

On the eastern side of the priory two bay windows have been lately

added. The principal entrance is by a porch on the west side, ornamented with Doric pilasters, surmounted by others of the Ionic orders. Four shields, exhibiting the armorial bearings of the several families into which the first lay possessors intermarried, are placed above the arch, inscribed with their several names, Croke and Cave; Croke and Unton; Croke and Blount; and Croke and Bennett. Over them is the motto of the Crokes, *Virtutis amore*. Between the three first is the date 1587, and under Croke and Bennett 1622. On the centre of the pediment over the door is a rose under a crown, between the initials E. K., for Ed. VI., and over it the following inscription:—"Fear this glorious and fearful Name, THE LORD THY GOD. Honour the King." Over this is a book open between two cherubs' heads, and upon its pages the Greek word ΘΕΟΣ.

The chapel was built by Sir George Croke in 1639. The stables have the date of 1666, and the initials of Alexander Croke.

Without, and nearly opposite the park-gate, is a range of alms-houses, erected by Sir George Croke, for four men and four women, A.D. 1636; for the better regulation of which he drew up a code of orders, which are now in full force, and the presentations made accordingly. He also settled a rent charge of twenty pounds a year for a clergyman who should preach once every Sunday, there, or in the chapel at Horton, [since destroyed.] This was a great convenience to his own family, the poor people in the alms-house, his tenants and neighbours; the parish church being at Beckley, at the distance of two miles[d].

One of these orders is, "That from henceforth public prayers shall be read in the almeshouse in their several chambers by course, or in the chappell belonging to the mansion house of Studley *every morninge and eveninge*, at certain hours, and that the same prayers shal be the Confession of Sinners, and such other prayers now used in the Church of England." Provision is also made for payment to the *curate* or schoolmaster, if any such shall be *resident* in Horton or Studley. The poor men are to be called together by a bell, and any that are absent without just cause are to be fined[e].

[c] Par. Antiq., vol. i. p. 141.
[d] Sir A. Croke, vol. i. p. 587.
[e] Sir A. Croke, Appendix xxx., vol. ii. p. 860.

STANTON ST. JOHN.

PATRON. St. John Baptist. DEANERY

NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD. OF CUDDESDEN.

HUNDRED

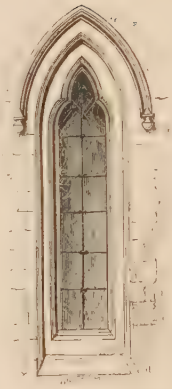
OF BULLINGTON.

View of the Church from the South-East.

This Church appears to have been built in the time of Edward I. The Chancel is a fine and valuable specimen of that age, the period of transition from the Early English to the Decorated style. The Tower was added or rebuilt in the fifteenth century.

The Chancel, which is the most important feature of this Church, is a composition of singular character and great beauty; the north and south side are each in two divisions with a buttress between; the two divisions on the north, and the eastern one on

the south side, each contain two very beautiful lancet windows with delicate mouldings and trefoiled heads; these are widely splayed within, and with beautiful suits of mouldings; the interior arches are depressed, and the arch-mouldings at the corners cross in a very elegant manner; the corbel-heads between are well cut: the accompanying engravings will, however, explain better than a description. The south-west division consists of a small door and one window, which is wider than the rest, but in other respects similar; the



Side Window of Chancel. (Exterior.)

Corbel Heads, North side of Interior of Chancel.

Female Head, South side.

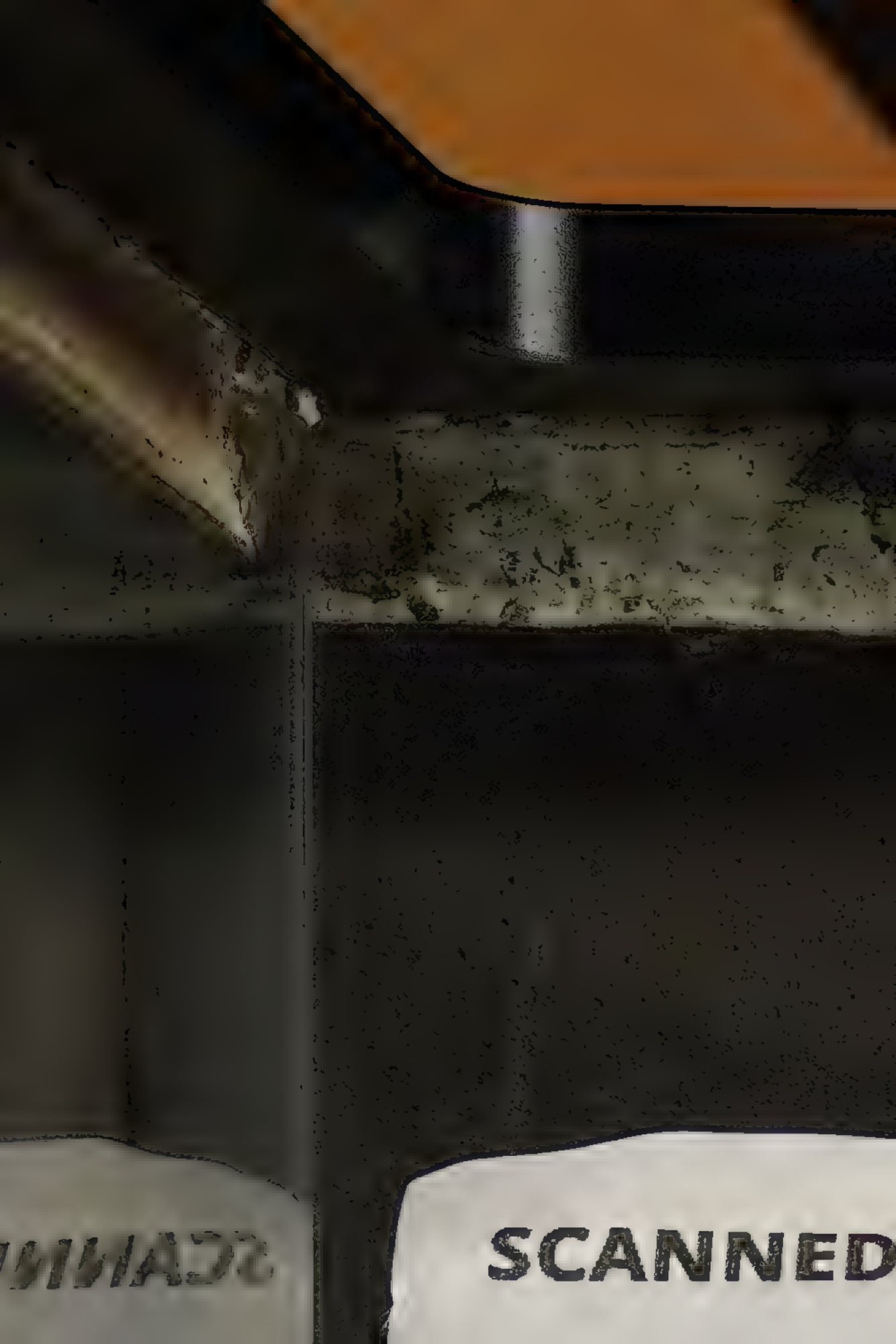
dripstones over these windows are well moulded, and terminated by the peculiar ornaments called Masks, or Notch-heads. In the interior the terminations are heads, elegantly carved, among which are a king and a bishop very similar to those of the east window of Merton college chapel, and female heads with the chin-cloth, very characteristic of the period. The buttresses are of two stages, and bold projection; the tablet-moulding under the lower stage runs quite round the chancel, and is remarkable for its singular character, and the curious hollow, which however does not add much to the effect,

Buttresses of Chancel.

East Window

Side Window of Chancel (interior)

Recess for Easter Sepulchre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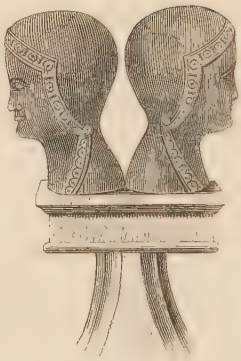
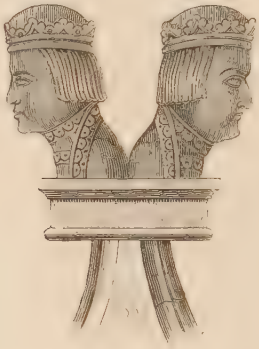
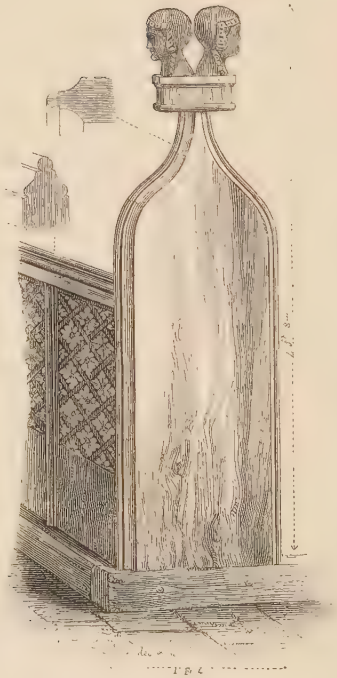
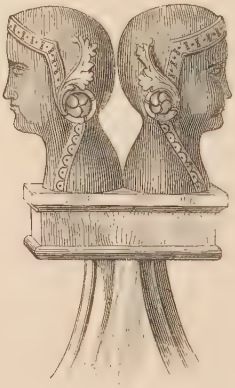




Poppy-heads in Nave, c. 1500

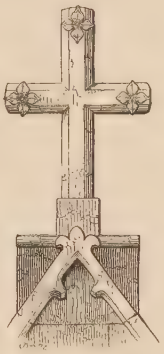




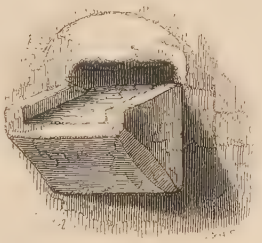
Bench-ends and Poppy-heads in Nave, c. 1500

marked character of the time of Henry VIII. The exterior of the nave is of Decorated character; the south aisle small and low, and the clerestory windows above are spherical triangles, the interior mouldings cinquefoiled; the entrance to the Church is in this aisle; a plain Decorated doorway, unprotected by a porch.

The north aisle is much wider, with a high-pitched roof almost as high as that of the nave; this aisle is Perpendicular, but the south-west window is Decorated, preserved from an earlier structure, the rest square-headed Perpendicular; there are some fine and large buttresses to this aisle. On the east gable of this aisle is a very good Perpendicular cross, canted and ornamented with a four-leaved flower near the extremity of each of the arms, the base ornamented with trefoils on each face; on the east gable of the nave is the base of a sanctus-bell niche. In the north aisle there is a chantry surrounded with very beautiful oak open screen-work, which retains many traces of its former brilliant colouring; there is a beautiful early Decorated piscina on the south side, in a singular projecting mass like a buttress, and a locker on the north side: in the eastern wall another water-drain, like a piece of a stone spout through the wall, this is on the north side of the Altar, and low down, so as to be convenient for pouring into. From these remains it would appear that this inclosure was most probably a vestry, in which, according to custom, there was an Altar for rehearsing the service, with all its appurtenances. It is lamentable to see this curious and interesting inclosure now filled up with new deal pews, of the most approved box form. The Font is octagonal, quite plain, and remarkably low, standing on the ground without any steps. The wall above the Altar was covered with paintings.



Cross on East Gable.



Water-drain at East end of North Aisle.

There is a current tradition that this aisle was built for the inhabitants of Woodpery, in place of rebuilding their church after it had been destroyed, with the whole village, by an accidental fire in the fifteenth century. There was also a chantry in the south aisle; the piscina remains, as also some woodwork, on which are some very good paintings of angels.

The Tower is of Perpendicular date, with a staircase-turret on the south side, not at the angle, but nearer the south-east than the south-west angle; it contains five bells and a clock. The tower-arch is of simple and bold character, and of good proportions. In the west window there is a very curious small circular panel of painted glass, on which is represented a man in a fighting attitude, with sword and shield, in a remarkable costume of the time of Edward I., so that this piece of glass must have been preserved from an earlier window, as is frequently the case.

The old Rectory-house, which was standing until within these

Rectory-House, in 1835

four years at the south-east corner of the Church-yard, was a valuable specimen of the domestic architecture of the fourteenth century: its destruction is very much to be regretted. We are indebted to the zeal and taste of the late Sir Alexander Croke, of Studley, for this representation of it. T. SIMPSON, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In Domesday Book, it is written Stantone, and was held by Ilbert de Laci, of the Bishop of Baieux.

A.D. 1141, 6, 7, King Stephen. This church was granted to the

convent of St. Mary, at Reading, by the empress Maude; the deed of presentation, and the confirmations of it are printed in Kennett's Par. Ant.[a], Stanton St. John, so called because the family of St. John of Lageham, in Surrey, were lords of it so early as King Henry III.'s days, and continued so to the 25th of Edward III. and after, for we find the Lord St. John of Bletsho, Earl of Bolenbroke, in possession of it 1st of Eliz., as being a branch of that antient family of St. John of this place[b].

A.D. 1181. A composition was made in the Church of Stanton, and afterwards fully confirmed at St. Frideswide's, in Oxford, between the Abbot and Monks of Ensham, and the Prior and Canons of Bicester respecting the tithes of Stratton[c].

1184, 30, 31, Henry II. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed to the Abbey of Ensham, the Church of Stanton; the gift of John de St. John.

A.D. 1229, 13 Henry III. Roger St. John, of Stanton, did remit and quit claim (as his father had before done) to a mill and five virgates of land in Weston, adjoining to Burcester, called Simeon's land, which had been granted to the abbey of Oseney[d].

A.D. 1254, 39 Henry III. By the hundred Rolls[e] of this date we find that Lady Emma de St. John held the manor of the value of 20*l.* [about 800*l.* of our money] as her dowry, with ten hides of land held under the king by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.

A.D. 1290, aut circiter, temp. Edward I.[f] At this period John de St. John held the manor of hereditary right, and had three plough lands and two meadows called Sideleme and Hildesden, and common pasture in Menemers and Bernwood, also two woods called Hornle and Sidele, and two mills which paid 22*s.* a year. The abbot of Ensham was patron of the Church.

A.D. 1323, 16, 17 Edw. II. John de St. John, lord of the manors of Staunton St. John and Great Barton, departed this life, leaving John his son and heir fifteen years of age; and Alice his widow, who after married to Reginald de Pavely, lord of the manor of Wendlebury[g].

A.D. 1340. Sir Richard d'Amorie assigned over fifty acres of land in Staunton St. Johns, to Matthew Clyredon, with other property. In trust for himself, and for Richard his son and heir, on occasion of his joining an expedition in Flanders.

[a] Kennett, vol. i. p. 132.
[b] Mag. Brit., vol. iv. p. 411.
[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 201.
[d] Ib., p. 290.
[e] P. 38.
[f] Rot. Hand., p. 713.
[g] Kennett, vol. i. p. 563.

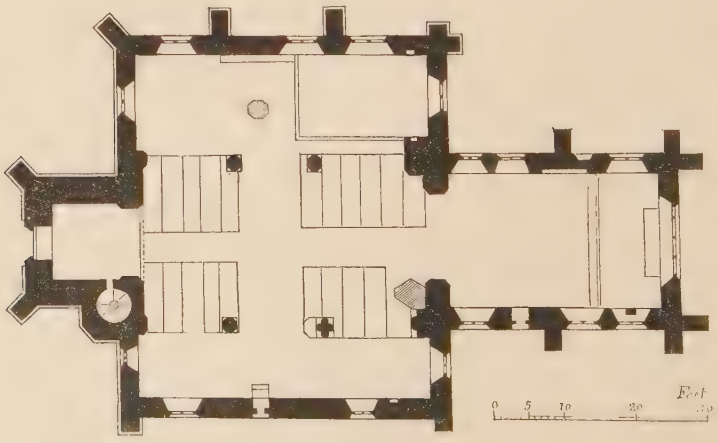
A.D. 1390. Simon, son of Walter de Wodeham, in the county of Surrey, released to Nicholas de Loveyn, knight, and Margery his wife, all his right in the manors of Staunton St. John, Barton and Lageham, com. Oxon; from which family of Loveyn, the possessions passed to that of St. Clare; of whom Sir Philip St. Clare, knight, died possessed of the manor of Staunton, as demesne of the king in capite, 10 Henry IV., and left John his son and heir a minor in ward to the king[h].

The manor and rectory were purchased by New College immediately after the suppression of monasteries: we find that in 1534, 26 Henry VIII., William Fleshmonger gave £200. towards the purchase of the manor of Stanton St. John's; and in 1535, Thomas Milling also gave 300 marks towards the same purchase[i].

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. the manor with its appurtenances belonging to New College is valued at 22*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

The living was valued in the Ecclesiastical Taxation[j], A.D. 1291, at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; in 1341 it was still valued at the same sum[k], though assessed at 6*l.*: in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII.[l] it is reckoned at 16*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*, net value. It is now valued at 287*l.*, and the population is 470.

[h] R. Dods. MS., vol. xxxvii. and xli., ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 126.
[i] Wood's Oxford, by Gutch, vol. iv., p. 185.
[j] P. 31.
[k] P. 134.
[l] P. 171.



Ground Plan of the Church

WOODPERRY.

AN ECCLESIA DESTRUCTA.

This, which from long acquiescence, and in some degree perhaps, from unity of possession in the hands of the same proprietors during three centuries, has, for many years past, been considered a hamlet or tithing of Stanton St. John, appears to have been once a distinct parish or district, possessing a place of worship and cemetery of its own.

For, in the Valor of Pope Nicholas, the abbot of Oseney is stated to have a portion of tithes worth 6s. 8d. per annum, in ecclesia de Wodepyrie indecimali. This portion, as will appear below, consisted of two-thirds of the tithes, which, having originally been granted by Robert de Oily the elder, to the secular priests of St. George's chapel within the castle of Oxford, were transferred by Robert de Oily, the nephew, to his new foundation at Oseney in 1129. The only inference, however, attempted to be drawn from the use of the word "Ecclesia" in this passage, is, not that there was then a church at Woodperry, but that there existed in it a rectory, or property in tithes, distinct from those of its neighbour Stanton; and this is placed beyond a doubt by the "Ecclesia de Staunton" being afterwards separately noticed in the same record, and estimated to be worth £6 13s. 4d. a-year. In the inquisitiones nonarum, in the 15th year of Edward III., (1340,) the following entry occurs:—"Wodepirie. *Ecclesia Parochialis* ejusdem cum omnibus suis porcionibus taxatur ad xiiis. iiii*d.* cujus nona prædicta assedetur ad xiiis. iiii*d.* et non plus, per juratores et inquisitores prædictos." King Henry VIII.'s commissioners, in their return of pensions and portions due and unpaid to the monastery of Oseney, have

under the title Woodperry, "De x*s*. de portione decimarum infra *parochiam* ibidem per annum, nil:" and in their account of the possessions of New College, they carefully distinguish the lands in Wodbury from the manor, &c., of Staunton Seynt John. Farther, the Studley chartulary expressly calls this a parish[a]. "Fines et limites parochiæ ecclesiæ de Beckleye. Sepe vocatum Arnegravchegh quod est inter quondam campum vocatum Borstallfelde dividit parochiam de Beckleye a parochia de Brehull. Et per illud sepe extendit se parochia de Beckleye, et ducit idem sepe recte ad quendam rivulum Denebrooke nuncupatum, qui quidem rivulus pertendit usque ad clausum Domini Richardi Damori. Qui quidem clausus dividit parochiam de Beckley a *parochiâ* de Woodperrye." In the preamble to the Stanton Inclosure Act, passed in 1777, it is mentioned, and evidently with some doubt as to its proper description, as "a certain farm, estate, or tithing, within the said parish, called Woodperry, which is free from tithes;" and though now rated together with that parish for the repairs of the church and support of the poor, it still retains its own surveyors of the roads, does suit and service to a different court, at which, previous to the late change of the law, the tithingman was always appointed, and came into the possession of its present owners by a title altogether distinct from that of the other.

With regard to the existence of a church or chapel here, there had always been a tradition in the neighbourhood to that effect; and it was added, that upon its being destroyed, the inhabitants purchased for themselves the privilege of attending divine worship at Stanton St. John, by building the north aisle of the present church. Of the truth of the latter assertion, there is not known to be any proof[b]. About twenty years since, a labourer, felling a tree which stood near the S. E.

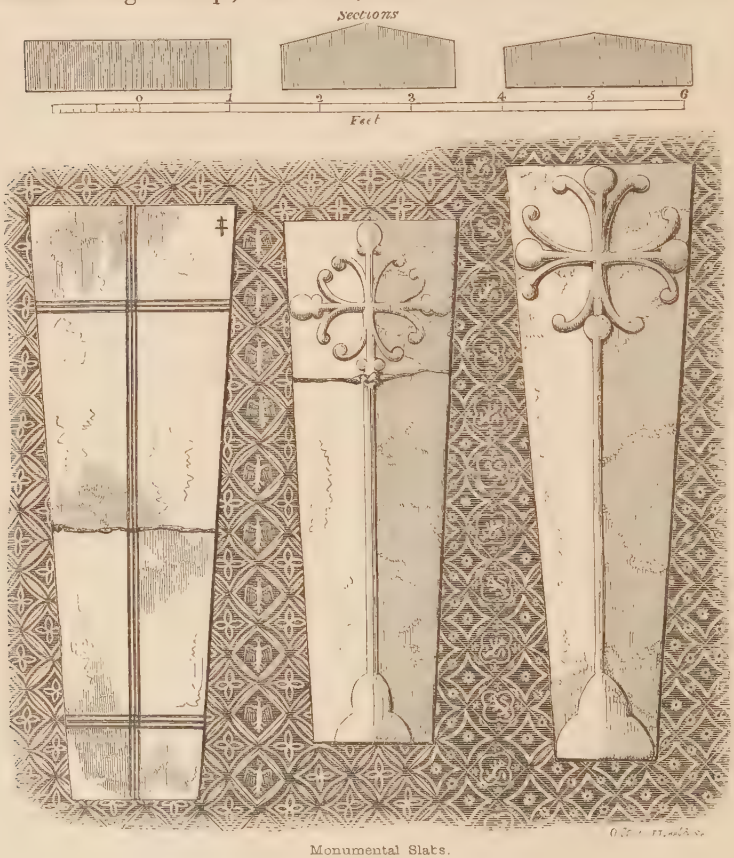
[a] F. 5. quoted in Sir A. Croke's History of the Croke family, vol. i. p. 432. note.

[b] Circumstances seem rather to confirm the tradition; the aisle is unusually large, and has clearly been rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th century, while no account of the church of Woodpery brings it down to so late a period, and the fragments discovered all belong to an earlier period. It seems therefore, most probable, that the fire which destroyed the village and church, took place early in the fifteenth century.

corner of the wall of the kitchen garden belonging to the mansion-house, in a field called Upper Ashen Close, found beneath the root of it the skull and part of the bones of a man. The singularity of the circumstance attracted his attention; and considering what chance, (for it could hardly be design,) had placed these relics of mortality in such a situation, it occurred to him that the spot on which he was at work, must be part of the church-yard of which he had often heard, and subsequent researches proved this to be the fact. As far as can at present be ascertained, along the highest part of the mound below the garden wall, stood the church, (or whatever it was called), and around it, to a considerable extent, was the cemetery. The hollow near it, running up to the garden wall on one side, and on the other winding with a gentle curve towards the water, is said to have been the "town road;" and over the whole extent of the field are scattered the remains of the village houses and buildings, extending nearly down to the little stream below, and reaching through the small close beyond it, up to the Horton road.

In searching over the ground once occupied by the church and church-yard, very numerous interments were found in the latter of bodies lying side by side, in the usual direction, at no great depth, which had apparently been buried in ordinary wooden coffins. What had been the site of the body of the church was still clearly distinguishable by the different colour of the soil, or rather rubbish, found in it, and by the absence of interments, three only excepted. But the walls of the edifice had been entirely removed, save only a small portion of the foundation of that on the south side, and another not so large of what was possibly part of the church-yard wall. These were purposely suffered to remain still undisturbed. The first of them is about eighteen feet long, by somewhat less than three in thickness, and seems to have had two clumsy buttresses: the second is nearly 14 feet long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide. The three interments already mentioned to have been within the body of the church are further to the west, and are

marked by three stones, lying side by side, two of which are ridged *en dos d' ane* as it is called, having raised ornamented crosses along the top; the third, that to the south, is flat, scored



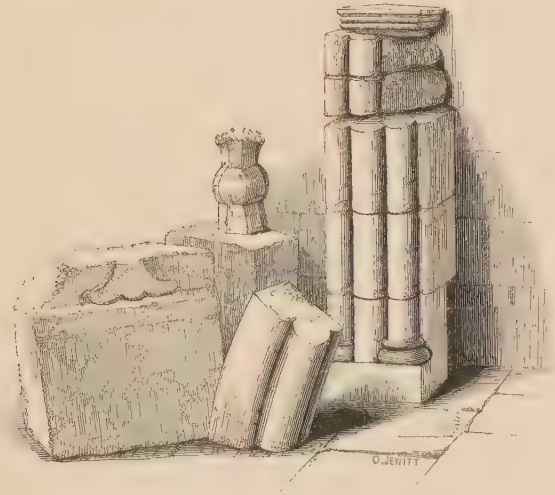
Monumental Slats.

down the middle with three lines, and crossed by similar ones near the top and bottom. The two latter are broken across. The bodies were found beneath, and had been buried in wood only, but there was neither trinket or any thing else to denote who these personages were, or at what period they had been so deposited. Indeed, from the fashion of two, at least, of the stones, it might have been supposed their corresponding stone coffins had disappeared, and they had been used a second time to protect bodies to which they did not

ENCAUSTIC TILES, WOODPERRY.

ENCAUSTIC TILES, WOODPERRY.

belong, were not such an idea at once disproved by the fact, that the intervals between them were carefully filled up with encaustic tiles (many more fragments of which kind were found dispersed), shewing that no previous removal had taken place. These tiles have been carefully preserved, and one of each pattern deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, they are of the thirteenth century, as indicated by the patterns, which present remarkably good specimens of that age; among them are the badges of Richard, earl of Cornwall, and king of the Romans, who resided principally at his mansion in the adjoining village of Beckley, and was proprietor of this manor; they are a lion rampant, crowned, his arms as earl of Poictou, and this badge is found on his seal, as mentioned under Beckley, p. 212, the other is the spread eagle of Germany, his badge as king of the Romans. In the course of the search, some portions of the building were brought to light, which, though inconsiderable, are curious and interesting, as tending to shew



Fragments of the ancient Church.

its style and date. They consist principally of parts of a Norman arch or doorway, and two mullions and jambs of windows, and all the fragments seem to be either of the twelfth, thirteenth, or fourteenth centuries. There is also one perfect

stone of an elegant Gothic canopy, which possibly may either be part of a cross, or perhaps of a building over some holy spring, for it was found away from the church, in the close adjoining the Horton road, and near the brook, the source of which is not far off.

Fragment of ancient Cross.

No endowment of the church having been traced, and one, at least, of the fragments of the building indicating that it was of early date, it may not be unreasonable to hazard the conjecture that its authors were the abbot and canons of Oseney.

There remains, however, one question which will naturally suggest itself, which is, why a spot so pleasantly situated, and once apparently so populous, should have been deserted. Tradition says, this was owing to an accidental fire, which burnt the whole village, and compelled the inhabitants to take refuge in Stanton; and undoubtedly the quantity of charred wood found amongst the ruins, with the paucity of slates, shewing that the general covering was of thatch, would seem to give weight and authority to the suggestion. On the other hand, the builder of the mansion, which is of the early part of the last century, may have thought his neighbours too many and too near, and transferred them, as in the case of Nuneham, elsewhere. But inquiry has failed to throw light on the real circumstances of the case; and the buildings having been originally constructed for the most part of flat stones uncemented by mortar, their remains have offered a most convenient stone quarry, which has been used probably in the first instance for constructing the walls of the garden and pleasure ground, (not those of the house,) and for many years past in the repairs of the roads, till every thing which could furnish a date has disappeared, and, what is more to be regretted, almost every thing has been disturbed. In clearing and levelling the ground in the course of the last few years, a well has been found still in good preservation, about twenty feet deep, the water flowing through it and not standing

in it; and a number of keys, which must have been tied together, with a heap of cinders near them, seemed to indicate the site of a smith's shop. But the most curious fact which these researches have disclosed, is the indubitable evidence which they have afforded as to the inhabitants of the spot at a remote period,—of a previous settlement or villa of the Romans. Traces of that extraordinary people may be found over the whole neighbourhood, but nowhere more abundantly than here. They consist of fragments of pottery in great variety of patterns, and many similar to those preserved in the museum at Bonn; of the fine red ware called Samian, both plain and elegantly embossed with figures; of pieces of cinerary urns, yet bearing distinctly the marks of fire, and in one case containing what appear to have been the burnt ashes of a human being; together with an almost inexhaustible store of the coarse tiles used for supplying warm air to apartments[c]. Added to these, a few trinkets in bronze, arrow-heads, and other instruments in iron, and brass coins of Domitian, Hadrian, Maximian, Constantine, and Claudius Gothicus, have been dug up.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Woodpery, Wodpary, Wode-pire, pirie, piry, or pyri, (for it is found spelt in all these forms,) would seem to denote a town or village in a wood. But in the great charter of Robert de Oily to Oseney abbey, we find him granting a portion of tithes "de Wode Pire et de Pyria," which words so connected almost imply that the epithet Wode was used to distinguish it from some other Pire or Pyria, in which the etymology of the name must be sought.

The notices respecting it are scanty. There were originally a manor and lay rectory here, and the former was a part of the barony of S. Walery. Robert de Oily the elder, after founding his chapel of St.

[c] In some instances they are found to have been pounded and used to make mortar by the succeeding inhabitants of a later period.

George, afterwards made a parochial church, within the precincts of Oxford castle, endowed it (amongst other things,) with two thirds of the tithes of this place. From this time it formed part of the honor of S. Walery, (for which see Beckley, p. 210) and is frequently mentioned as such; it occurs in inquisitions of the 39th Henry III., 7th Edward I., 28th Edward I.

1296. 24-25 Edw. I. Robert Bell de Wodepirie appears as a witness to a deed of grant and quit claim[d].

Circa 1303, 32 Edw. I. Robert de Wodepyri is one of the jury upon an extent of the manor of Ambrosden, taken on an inquisition[e].

1315. In a return of the limits of Bernwood forest, made upon oath, Wodeperie wood is stated to belong to Richard de Aumarie[f]. This must have been as tenant only.

1317, May 24, 10 Edw. II. The king grants to Richard D'Amory and his heirs, free manor in all his demesne lands of Bokenhalle, Blechedon, Stoke de l'Ile, Wodepiry, and Bix Gibwyn, co. Oxon, with other lands in Somerset and Bucks[g].

4 Edw. III. Richard D'Amory died possessed of Woodpary manor[h].

1330, 4 and 5 Edw. III. John de Eltham, second son of Edw. II., having been advanced to the title of Earl of Cornwall, has now a grant from the king, his brother, of the manor of S. Walery, &c.[i], but dying unmarried without issue in 1336, it again reverts to the Crown[k].

1360, 34-35 Edw. III. The king grants to John Chaundos the manor of Wodepery, co. Oxon, to hold by the accustomed service. This was said to be the celebrated Sir John Chandos[l], slain ten years afterwards in France, whose death is mentioned with so much interest and feeling by Froissart. He was of kin to Sir Richard de Amerie[m], which may have been one reason of the grant.

2 Henry IV. February 11. The king grants to William Willicotes, Esq., and his heirs, free warren in all his demesne lands of Willicote, or Alvescote, in the county of Gloucester, and in the manors of Ipwell, Walcote, and Wodepary, in the county of Oxon[n]; and in the 12th Henry

[d] Kennett, vol. i. p. 466.
[e] Ib., ii. p. 411.
[f] Ib., i. p. 529.
[g] P. 537. 1 Rott. Chartt. sub anno.
[h] Inquis. post mort., vol. ii. p. 30.
[i] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 15.
[k] Pp. 32. 159.
[l] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 157.
[m] P. 154.
[n] Cat. Rott. Chartt. p. 195. His name was not derived from Wilcot, co. Oxon, but from a property in Gloucestershire, ibid.

IV. he is returned to have died seized of ness 'tur et reddit' in Northlye, Wealicott, Wodeparye, and Ypwell, co. Oxon[o].

24 Henry VI. Elizabeth Blaket is found to have died seized of this manor[p], and also to have held Madecroft, and Horley's close[q].

Early in the sixteenth century, the estate was purchased by the Warden and Scholars of New College, Oxford, from Sir John Brome, of Holton, an ancestor of the Whorwood family, and was conveyed as a lay rectory, with lands appurtenant to it, a peculiarity not easily to be accounted for, but by supposing that the manor had become extinct for want of the requisite number of tenants to support it.

It may not be uninteresting to add that this spot is noticed by the celebrated antiquary, Thomas Hearne. In his diaries preserved in the Bodleian Library, he gives us the following particulars in his account of a walk which he took to Studley, on Saturday, March 31st, 1716. "Having done at Borstall, I returned homewards, and stopping at the Royal Oak, at Stowe Wood, (on this side Beckley,) Master Haynes, the tenant of the house, told me that his mother was living (somewhere about Woodbury Farm, I think,) being about 102 years of age.

"The said Woodbury Farm is above a quarter of a mile from Stowe-wood, and Haynes gave several reasons to shew that it was formerly a town. He says many foundations of buildings appear continually, and that in a plain below the farm houses many human bones have been dug up at different times, and that this was the Church-yard, and that therefore the Church stood there."

He also gives some account of the building of the mansion-house in his diary for the year 1732, vol. 137, p. 100, saying that "Woodbury house was built by Mr. Morse, a bachelor of 74 years of age, that he was worth £300,000 and was purchasing estates. I have heard that he was a partner in Child's house." That respectable firm, upon being applied to, confessed their belief that they had once had a partner of the name; added to which, "Mr. Morse's exōrs." are found rated in the parish books of Stanton for the year 1750[r]. And in the iron-work on the gate in front of the house are the initials I. M. or T. M. with the crest, a battle-axe, which probably may have been the crest of the Morse family, as Edmondson blazons their arms thus:—Argent, a battle-axe in pale gules, between three pellets.

[o] Cal. inq. p. mortem, vol. iii. p. 334, No. 41.

[p] Vol. iv. p. 226. No. 33.

[q] P. 306. No. 55.

[r] Constable's Book. The rate is upon property in Stanton.

HOLTON.

PATRON. **St. Bartholomew.** DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN.

MISS BISCOE. HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.

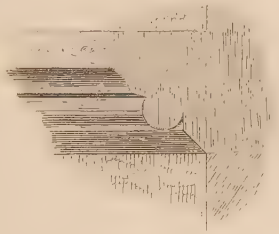
North east view of Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	20	6	by	14	0
Nave	38	0	by	15	0
North transept . .	16	7	by	10	4
South transept . .	15	0	by	10	0
Tower	11	10	by	9	0

N.B. Both nave and chancel are narrower at the east end than the west.

A SMALL cruciform Church without aisles, the tower at the west end. It appears to have been originally built towards the end of the twelfth century, but the chancel rebuilt in the fourteenth, the nave remodelled, and the tower added in the fifteenth.

Chancel.—The east window is Decorated, of three lights, with flowing tracery: on the north side is a Decorated window of a single light and a small door: on the south side are two windows in the same style, and a small round-headed piscina. The Roof is ceiled, but the wall-plates have good Perpendicular mouldings; the chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed; the upper doorway to the rood-staircase has lately been opened, over it is a Decorated sanctus-bell turret, surmounted by a cross, and with the roll-moulding as a string under it; on the east gable is a good Decorated cross.



Wall-plate in Chancel.

The arches of the transepts are transition Norman, pointed; the north transept has one Norman and one Decorated window. The south transept was rebuilt, and probably the nave remodelled, by William Brome about the middle of the fifteenth century, as appears by the following inscription, formerly existing in the south transept, and preserved in Wood's MS. E. I., and also in the parish register, but destroyed previous to 1819:—"Hic jacet Willielmus Brome, qui hanc capellam fieri fecit et multa bona huic ecclesiæ erogavit, obiit 17 die mensis Decembris, An. Dom. 1461. Cujus animæ propitietur Deus." It has one Perpendicular window, and a modern one.

The Nave has square-headed Perpendicular windows of three lights. It has lately been refitted with plain open seats. The roofs are all ceiled, but the moulded wall-plates of the fifteenth century still remain. The Font is Perpendicular, octagonal, plain, unusually large, and solid. The north door is transition Norman, with very good mouldings, the zig-zag and tooth

North Door in Nave

ornaments, and has shafts with Norman sculptured caps; it has recently been carefully cleaned from the whitewash with which it had long been choked up.

The Tower is Perpendicular, plain, with a good small west door, and a good tower-arch, pointed and recessed, the inner arch resting on good corbel-heads. This had been long concealed, and has lately been re-opened and exposed to view. It is much to be regretted, that at the same time the western gallery was rebuilt and enlarged to such an extent that it was found necessary to introduce a window under it within the west door, and to build a staircase on the outside of the tower with a square-headed door. Fortunately, however, the fabric itself has not been injured in these alterations, so that the original design can be restored at any future time. There are no buttresses to any part of this Church.

In this Church is the burial-place of the family of Schutz, of Shotover-house, and also those of the families of Brome and Whorwood.

In the Tower are three bells thus inscribed:—1. Richard Wise, William Willins, C.W., 1662. 2. "Sancta Anna ora pro nobis," in letters of the fifteenth century. The third having been recast, the inscription is not legible.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1084, Holton, is in Domesday Book, written Eltone. It is there reported, in the Hundred of Peritune, and held by Godfrey of Roger de Iveri, to whom it was given, with several other lands in this neighbourhood, by Robert de Oilgi his sworn brother in the service of the Conqueror. It thus became part of the district afterwards called the Honor or Barony of St. Walery, an account of which will be found in the Historical Notices of Beckley the head of that Barony.

A.D. 1166[a], Bernard de St. Walery paid to the king two marks for

[a] Reg. Dods. MS., vol. ii., et Rot. Pip. ap. Kennett.

livery of his lands in "Haltona Oxenfordscire," as accounted for by Adam de Catmer, sheriff of Oxon and Berks.

A.D. 1319, Roger, uncle to Richard d'Amorie lord of the manor of Bucknell, having married Elizabeth, third sister, and one of the co-heirs to Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, niece to King Edward II., had a grant from the king to him and his said wife, and their heirs in general, entail of the manor of Halghton in com. Oxon, late the possession of Edmund earl of Cornwall, which grant was confirmed in the parliament held at York, 13 Edw. II., by which means the said manor of Halghton passed to their eldest daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married 10 Edw. III., to Thomas Lord Bardolf; and so in 45 of Edw. III., to their son and heir, William Lord Bardolf; and in 13 Rich. II., to Thomas Lord Bardolf; who having joined in rebellion against King Henry IV., with the Earl of Northumberland and others, and being attainted in parliament, his lands were given by that king to Thomas Beaufort his brother: howbeit, Sir W. Clifford, knt. in right of Anne his wife, and William Phelip in right of Joan his wife, daughters of the said Thomas, representing to the king that King Henry II. had by his letters patent given to Thomas Bardolf, ancestor of their father, and to the heirs of his body, many of the said manors, the inheritance of them did of right belong to them, the king being convinced of the justice of their claim, granted them the reversion of the said lordships, and so they and their posterity came at length to have this manor divided between them, and we find Joan the wife of William Phelip died possessed of a moiety of it 25 Henry VI., leaving it, and her other estates, as her husband (which was styled the Lord Bardolf in her right) had done, to Henry the son of John Viscount Beaumont, by Elizabeth their only daughter and heir[b], and 6 Henry IV. to Anne his daughter and heir, married to Sir William Clifford[c].

A.D. 1538, in the Ecclesiastical Survey of Henry VIII. the rectory is valued at 12*l.* 19*s.* It is now valued at £390. The present number of inhabitants is 277.

In Wood's MS. E. I., is the following information respecting the Church and the later history of the manor. "At the upper end (under the sanct. bell-cot) of the Church, without side are the arms of Baldington, quartered with a chevron both cut in stone, whether the chevron

[b] Magna Britann., vol. iv. p. 408, 9.
[c] Reg. Dods. MS., vol. xl. p. 159, ap. Kennett.

was charged with three sprigs of Brome I cannot perceive, because weather has worn away the stone. This Church at the foundation, as the inhabitants say, was dedicated to St. Bartholomew, because his picture is painted on the door thereof, with a saltier or ..... his armes. This door did stand, when I took a copy of the monument, in the belferey. I have been told here that this lordship was formerly in the possession of the Baldingtons whose heiress was married to Brome, and the heiress of Brome was married to Sir Thomas Whorwood of Sandwell in Staffordshire." It remained in that family until 1801, when the estate, manor and advowson, were sold by Henry Mayne Whorwood, Esq., of Headington, to Elisha Biscoe, Esq., in whose family they now remain. The old manor-house was a large stone edifice surrounded by a moat; this was taken down, and the present house built on another site in 1815. The feast of dedication is held on St. Bartholomew's day, old style.

In the parish register of Holton, is the following remarkable entry :—

WEDDINGES,

Henry Ireton, Commissary General to Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Bridget, daughter to Oliver Cromwell, Lieut. Genl. of the horse to the said Sir Thomas Fairfax, were married by Mr. Dell, in the lady Whorwood her house, in Holton, June 15, 1646. ALBAN EALES, RECTOR.

RECTORS OF THE CHURCH OF HOLTON.

A.D. 1263, Nov. 19. The Lord Bishop admitted John Chaplain of the King of Almaign, to the Church of Halghton, at the presentation of the same king, by the death of Ada, and it was given him to hold lawfully together with the Church of St. Nicholas of Sanderdon, in the Archdeaconry of Bucks.—(Roll of Richard Gravesend, 6th year).

A.D. 1319, July 20. William de Luteshull, priest, by Sir Roger Damory, Knt., to the Church of Halghton, vacant by the death of Philip de Waltham.—(Reg. Dalderby).

A.D. 1323, March 29. Will. de Carleton, clerk, presented by the king to the Church of Halghton, (by reason of lands which were the property of Roger Damory, being in his hands), vacant because Will. de Luteshull has entered into the order of Minors.—(Reg. Burgwersh).

A.D. 1345, March 4. Stephen de Bretham, priest, presented by Lady

Elizabeth de Burg, Lady de Clare, to the Church of Halghton, by death of Sir William atte Halle.—(Reg. Beke).

A.D. 1418, July 9. An exchange between Sir Nich. Byllyngdon, Rector of the Church of Halton, in the Deanery of Rysbergh, of the collation and immediate jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Michael James, Rector of the Church of Wendilbery, at the presentation of Rob. Andrew.—(Reg. Reppingdon).

A.D. 1479, Sept. 27. Master John Coldale, priest, presented by Sibilla Quatermayne, relict of Richard Quatermayne, deceased, to the Church of Halton, by death of Master Edw. Byrt.—(Reg. Rotherham).

A.D. 1494, March 19. Sir Robert Occulshawe, priest, presented by Johanna Fowler, widow, to the Church of Halton, by resignation of Master John de Coldall.—(Reg. Smyth).

A.D. 1508, March 30. Sir John Kale, Chaplain, presented by Richard Fowler, Knt., to the Church of Halton, by death of Sir Robert Okilshawe.—(ib.)[d].

1534. Sir Richard Loste, Rector[e].
1633. Rev. John Normansell[f].
1645. Rev. Alban Eales.
1665. Rev. Edward Rogers.
1684. Rev. William Master.
1702. Rev. Dr. Thomas Dunster, presented by Mr. Whorwood.
1720. Rev. James Birt.
1723. Rev. Edmund Whorwood.
1735. Rev. Thomas Finch.
1751. Rev. James Whorwood.
1758. Rev. John Coxe.
1768. Rev. Freeman Gage.
1794. Rev. William Stratford.
1819. Rev. George Thomas Tyndale.

J. B.

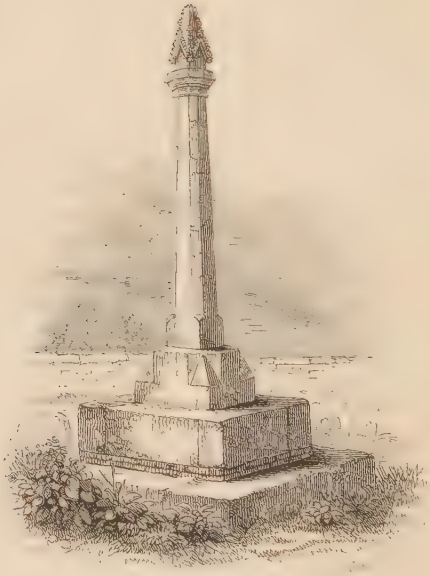
[d] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 18. [e] Valor Ecclesiasticus. [f] Parish Reg.

WATER-PERY.

St. Mary the Virgin.

PATRON.
J. W. HENLEY, ESQ.,
M.P.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



Decorated Cross in the Church-yard.

This Church is of mixed styles, and is so covered with luxuriant ivy that its external features are considerably obscured.

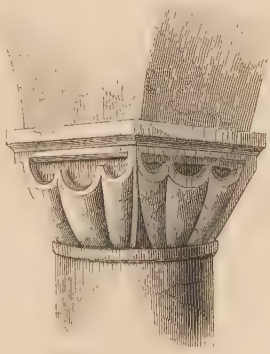
The Chancel, level with the Nave, is Early English, of about A.D. 1200, with a Decorated east window of three lights, in which are some confused fragments of stained glass, and the head probably of the patron saint. The lancet windows at the sides are small, and of long proportion, unequally placed, three being on the north, and on the south side originally four, of which

the two easternmost have been removed to make room for a monument and a modern window. In the lancet windows are some fragments of stained glass of simple Early English design. The priest's door, now stopped, was on the north side. Two heads fixed into the wall on this side were the terminations of a Decorated hood-moulding, one represents a bishop of the fourteenth century, the other a religious lady, or benefactress.

Corbel-heads in Chancel.

The roof is of high pitch, covered with slates, but ceiled within. The walls have been so altered by plaster and battening, that in many parts their former features are completely obscured. The mouldings of the chancel-arch terminate in Decorated corbels.

The Nave is Decorated, of about A.D. 1300, it has three bays opening into the south or Lord's aisle, one supported on an isolated transition Norman column and cap, a similar impost-moulding to that on the cap is continued on the other piers: the arches above have no mouldings whatever on their soffits. The roof of this part of the Church is of oak, open, flat, Perpendicular, and covered with lead. It was probably constructed at the beginning of the sixteenth century.



Transition Norman Cap in Nave.

On the east gable is a simple sanctc-bell cot, much mutilated. The Font is quite plain, and of different dates. The lower part or present stem is of about A.D. 1300, and appears originally to have been the Font, on which has been placed during the Perpendicular period an octangular basin, lined with lead. The marks of the staple-bolts remain.

The Pulpit is of the time of Charles the Second, with arabesque panelling of the period. The date, A.D. 1677, is carved on the sounding-board. The letters G. M. surmounting the date are explained by the fact that George Measey was churchwarden that year. The Reading Pew is similar but earlier; in front is cut the date 1632. A Perpendicular bracket is unevenly set in the north wall, between the windows.

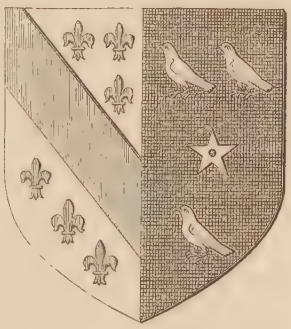
The Rood-turret, with the staircase leading from the nave to the loft, remains nearly perfect.

The south or Lord's aisle was remodelled at the beginning of the sixteenth century, but must have been built long before that date. Formerly the only entrance into the Church (unless a door existed where is now a modern vault on the north side) was through a Decorated doorway, remaining in this aisle. The mouldings of the arch die rather curiously on the face of a larger moulding, forming the jambs. Another door at the west end of this aisle was made about 1820.

The west window, of three lights, is Perpendicular, about A.D. 1520. It bears marks of having been once filled with stained glass, but it is impossible from what remains to form any idea of the original design. On the north side of the nave are two very good and boldly cut Decorated windows, precisely similar in architectural features, except that one of them has been removed and unskilfully replaced. In the upper part of that towards the west is a small medallion of Decorated glass, representing our Saviour sitting on a couch or throne, the left hand holding a book, the right hand raised in the attitude of blessing; beside the throne is a kneeling figure:

Early Decorated Window, North side of Nave.

the rest of the window appears to have been filled up with painted quarrels, chiefly oak-leaves and acorns, of which a considerable number remain: in the lights below are two figures of worshippers, one a male the other a female, both in dresses of the fourteenth century. The corresponding window near the pulpit contains glass of a monumental character, inserted at a later date; in the light to the right hand is a man in armour kneeling, on his surcoat a bendlet between six fleurs-de-lis, which are the arms of the Fitz-Elys family; on his breast is the minute effigy of a stag lodged or recumbent. In the centre light was the figure of the Virgin Mary, now completely destroyed[a]. In the remaining light is depicted the lady of the knight, also kneeling, and behind her kneels their only daughter. The former has several rings on her fingers, and has a cross pattée attached to her necklace; the latter has also rings, and wears the sacred monogram I H C. The fragments of arms recorded as formerly existing may still be distinguished. In the spandrels formed by the arches of the lights are the letters R. F. which are the initials of Robert Fitz-Elys. Robert was a favourite name among the descendants of William Fitz-Helias, Elias, Elye, Elys, &c., but the costumes of the above figures belong to the latter half of the fifteenth century and it is certain that the person here depicted with his wife and daughter is "Robert Phisseles," reported as deceased A.D. 1470. In Legh's Visitation of Oxfordshire, 1574, wherein are traced the arms then existing in Waterpery Church, the annexed coat is ascribed to Robert Fitz-Elys, Esq.



Arms of Robert Fitz-Elys, Esq.

On the opposite side, in the south aisle, is another obituary window. It is square-headed, Perpendicular, of three lights. The glass here is sadly mutilated and misplaced, but with the help of the MSS. referred to the original design may be understood in all its detail[b]. On the left is Walter Curson

[a] Wood's MS., E. I.

[b] Harl. MS., 4170; Wood's MS., E. I. and D. 14.

clad in armour, and in a kneeling posture; behind him are his eight sons, also kneeling: before him in the centre light, but originally in that to the right, is the mutilated figure of his wife Isabella, daughter of Robert Saunders, Esq., of Harrington, Northamptonshire; behind her are their seven daughters, also kneeling. In the remaining light may be perceived remains of the figure of the Virgin Mary displaced from the centre; one hand embraces the Holy Infant, the other is offering the fruit of promise; her purple robe is *semée*, with her appropriate monogram. Below are the arms of Curson and Saunders. Under all is the following inscription in the glass:—

Pray yee for the soule of Walter Curson and Isabel hys wife, whose goodys as well the roofe of this Church and the roof of this Lordys Ile and the covering of leed of all the same, as also this window were made, whose bodys rest in the Augustin Freers Church yn Oxford, which Walter died the 7th day of Apryle yn the year of our Lord God MCCCCCXXVII. On whose &c.

Between the west and south doors is a square-headed Decorated window, partly blocked up, but formerly reaching nearly to the ground on the exterior.

On the south wall of the chancel the monument of Sir Francis Curson, who deceased A.D. 1610, Oct. 31, is a good specimen of the mural style which prevailed in the time of James I. He was the son of Vincent, the son of Richard, the son of Walter. His son Sir John Curson, was married to Magdalen, the second daughter of Sir Robert Dormer, of Wing, Bucks. This lady is the subject of the quaint epitaph on the opposite tablet, above the two corbel-heads already noticed.

AN EPITAPHE.

She that lyes heere wth in this gloomy grave
Enioyd all virtves that a minde covlde have
Let this svffice thee then in breife to know
She once was svch as thov mayst reade belowe.
Lord Dormer's daughter, S^{r} John Cursons wife
To whome foure sonns & daughte^{rs} twoe she bore
Belou'd of all she liud yet chang'd this life
For such a life as neuer shall change more
A MAGDALEN by name, a Saint by grace
Dy'de much bewaylde & buried in this place.
Then happye she who svch a life did leade
As she nowe lives anewe thovgh she is deade.

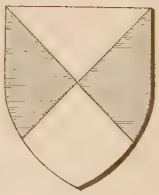
Brass, A.D. 1527, formerly in the Augustine Friars' Church, Oxford.

In the centre of the north wall is an exquisite piece of sculpture by Sir Francis Chantrey, to the memory of Mrs. Greaves, only daughter of Joseph Henley, Esq., who succeeded the Curson family in the ownership of Waterpery. On the floor of the chancel is a grey marble stone with an inscription roughly cut, of which the following words remain:—Exaudivit Dominus deprecationem meam.

At the entrance of the chancel is a brass in good preservation, representing Walter Curson, and Isabell his wife, with their arms and children (see previous page), as in the south window before described, but the plate containing the seven girls is lost. Near this stone in the year 1660 was a brass monument of a female figure bearing the following inscription: "Isabell Beaufo ja dis la femme . . . . nolin gist icy: dieu sal." Legh in his Visitation of Waterpery Church, A.D. 1574, writes upon a blank shield "Her lieth Beaufo, sometyme the wyfe of Sir Bertholme." There is a loose fragment of a brass of the fifteenth century still preserved in the Church, which may possibly be a part of the monument thus noticed.

The brass in the Lord's aisle was hopelessly mutilated before A.D. 1660. It consisted of a knight in plate armour, with his lady, their arms and children, eight boys and nine girls. Under a Perpendicular canopy in this aisle, is the recumbent effigy of a knight in plate armour (see opposite), of about the year 1420. The figure is well proportioned and the carving good. There can be little doubt that the person here represented was one of the Fitz-Elys family, as he formerly bore on his shield three fleurs-de-lis on each side of a bendlet. His name has been stated as Ledwell, but this may have arisen from his having lived in a part of the parish so called, and which is said at one time to have contained several houses. This monument is particularly noticed in

Fitz-Elys.



the wyffe.[c]

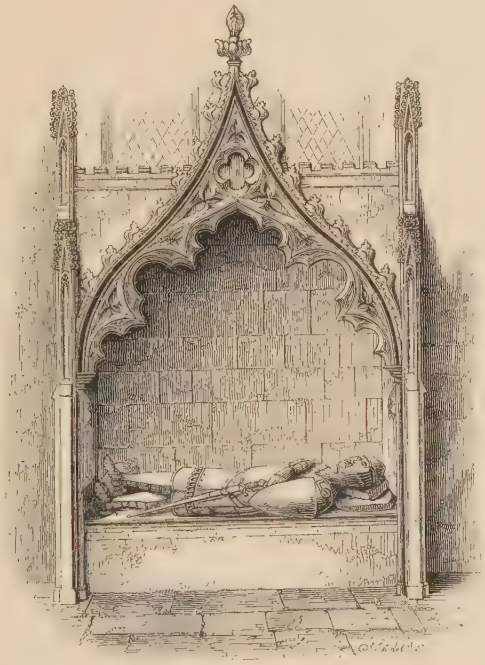
[c] Wood's MSS. D. 14.

Legh's Visitation, who calls it very ancient, and gives a sketch of "the hound" behind the upper corner of his shield. The arms which he attributes to the lady are the same with one of the shields still remaining in the upper part of the Curson obituary window. In the wooden tower of the Church are two bells, one of which in letters of the beginning of the thirteenth century, bears the inscription, "Ave Maria Gracia Plena Dominus

Specimen of Inscription on Bell.

Tecum." The other, "E. Hemings, fecit. Thomas Rippington, churchwarden, 1732."

JOSEPH CLARKE, ARCHITECT, 1, *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.*



Effigy of a Knight in Plate Armour, Lord's Aisle.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name of this place is in Domesday Book written PEREIVN[d]. It was soon abridged of its termination, and at an early period received its present prefix. The name itself has undergone almost every variety of change in its vowels as transcribed in ancient documents. In these it is found written Peri, Perya, Pery, Pirie, Pire, Piry, Pyrye, Pori, Pury, but the doubling of the r appears to be a variation of modern days for which there is no early precedent.

In Domesday Book PEREIVN is reported as part of the land of Robert de Oily, and in the hundred of Peritune. For the general history of the honor of de Oily to the year 1350, and also of Oseney abbey, to which the church of Water Pery became attached, the reader is referred to the Historical Notices of Kidlington in the Deanery of Woodstock.

1190 (circa). William[e], son of Elias, by the wish and entreaty of his wife Emma, daughter of Fulk Lovel, gives the church of Water Pery to Oseney abbey. This appears to be the same William Fitz-Elias, who in the year 1199 gave the neighbouring church of Wormenhall, with consent of Emma, to the prior and canons of St. Frideswide in Oxford, was received into their fraternity, and directed his body to be buried in their church[f]. It is also recorded that Ledehale grange was given by William, son of Elye, and Emma his wife, to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne, Essex, which was founded A.D. 1136. To this last-named abbey was also given Thomele by Jordan and his brother Rualdus[g].

1195. William Fitz-Elias, as the agent of Emma de Pery, puts in a claim against William Basset for one knight's fee in Corfton, and another in Acleia (Oakley), as the right and inheritance of the said Emma, which descended to her from Luvet de Brai her grandfather, who held that land in the time of Hen. I., and after him Fulk, son of Luvel, her father, who held that land in the time of Hen. II.[h]

1198. William de Pori, son of Emma de Pori, appears on behalf of his mother to resist the claim of John Morell, heir of R. Morell, who had married the daughter of Lupellus de Brai[i]. This appears to be William Fitz-Elias II., who confirmed his father's grant of the church of Water Pery to Oseney.

[d] Bp. Kennett, Par. Antiq., vol. i. p. 90.
[e] Osen. MS., Bp. Kennett, vol. i. p. 394.
[f] Wyrley's MSS. ap. Lipscomb's Bucks, p. 578.
[g] Dugdale Mon., vol. v. p. 588.
[h] Kennett, Rot. Cur. Reg., vol. i. p. 22.
[i] Placitor X. Ric. I. ap. Kennett.

1205. Ric. de Bellofago[k] gives to King John 20 marks and 1 palfrey, and finds a surety in order to take possession of lands in Peri, given him by his brother Henry, and of which he had been dispossessed on account of the disaffection of the said Henry.

1209. Hugh Wells, Bp. of Lincoln, orders an endowment of Water Pery and other churches belonging to Oseney[l].

1222. William Fitz-Elye, Umfry de Rokele, Richard de Greinvill, and other knights, required to furnish timber for repair of the king's house at Brill[m]. About this time Emma confirms her husband's grant in the following form:—"Notum sit fidelibus Sanctæ Ecclesiæ quod ego Emma de Pery, filia Fulconis Luvell, postquam dominus meus Willielmus filius Heliæ ad religionem transiens a me ex toto discessit, cum liberam et plenam potestatem hereditatis meæ haberem, et donaciones inde faciendæ ad me solam pertinerent, ratam habeo donacionem predictam &c. Teste Willielmo de Mesinherm fratre meo, Willielmo filio meo[n]."

1227. On July 13th, William, son and heir of William Fitz-Elias, did his homage and paid 100 shillings for his relief of one knight's fee in Oakley, held of the honor of Wallingford[o].

1236. A suit arose between William, son of William Fitz-Elias II., and John Leech, abbot of Oseney, concerning part of the advowson, and issued in the surrender of the whole to Oseney. This William Fitz-Elias III. afterwards gave a messuage and curtilage for the use of the vicar[p].

1246. Ric. de Bellofago reported as seized of Pirie and Ledhalle[q].

In the time of Hen. III., Richard de Bello Fago, and William, son of William Fitz-Elye, hold in Pirie and Ledhale two knights' fees of Reginald Fitz-Herbert, and he of the heirs of Hen. D'Oyly, and he of the king in capite[r].

1273. The town of Wat' pri' with the hamlet of Ledehale held for two knights' fees of Reginald Fitz-Peter, of the honour of D' Oylli, held of the king in capite by Hugh de Plessets.

Ric. de Bellifago hath a third part of said town and hamlet. Robert, son of Thomas Fitz-Elye, holds 1 manor with 4 carrucates of land, and a wood within Bernwood called Ledehalewood.

[k] Rot. de obl. et fin. temp. Johan., p. 249.
[l] Ducarel's Repertory of Vic. and Lincoln Reg.
[m] Close Rolls, Hen. III.
[n] R. Dods. MS., vol. 39. f. 97.
[o] R. Dods. MS., vol. 63. f. 109, ap. Kennett.
[p] Reg. Osen. MS., List of Abbots of Oseney, Dugdale Mon.
[q] Inquisit. post mort., vol. i. p. 4.
[r] Testa de Nevill., p. 105.

The abbot of Oseney hath the church of Wat' pir' by gift of ancestors of Ric. de Bellifago, and of the ancestors of Robert, son of Thomas Fitz-Elye; who also holds two parts in Wat' pir' and Ledehale: and one messuage and three cottages of the abbot at will.

Richard de Bellifago does service for the whole. Reginald Fitz-Peter, and Robert, son of Thomas Fitz Elye, are in Wardship to Ric. de Bellifago, and are under age. The abbot of Dorchester held messuages and lands in Thomele by service of presenting a rose to Robert, son and heir of Elye de Thomele[s], who held this town of the Earl of Lincoln.

1273. On July the fifth of this second year of Edward I., Reginald, Bishop suffragan of Cloyne in Ireland, acting as the substitute of Richard Gravesend, Bishop of Lincoln, consecrated with suitable honours the church of St. Mary the Virgin at Water Pery, with the altars thereof. The charter of dedication is transcribed at length in the Oseney Register.

1284. Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, in a charter issued at Luddington, recites and enforces the ordination of vicarages belonging to Oseney, which had been made by his predecessor, Hugh Wells, in 1209, and of which the following is the purport: "Every vicar presented by the said abbot and convent, and instituted by the bishop, was to have two marks yearly for his clothes, every second legacy or mortuary to the value of sixpence, and one half of it if beyond that value: and out of all oblations to the altar at every mass one penny, if the oblations were worth a penny: and whatsoever else by devotion of the faithful should be reasonably conferred upon him. As also a sufficient exhibition of victuals at the table of the canons whenever they staid within his parish: and the canons should find a clerk to serve and obey him, who should take an oath of fidelity to the vicar, saving his fealty to the said canons, who should likewise find a boy to wait upon him, and maintain the boy in all expenses. And when the canons were not resident, then the clerk, who as before appointed should attend the vicar, was to have the key of the canons' house, therein to provide for the diet of the vicar sufficiently and honourably. The canons should further furnish the said vicar with a horse, whenever he should have occasion to travel upon the concerns of the convent or the church, as well to the meetings of the rural deanery as to others: and should finally bear all burdens, i. e. first-fruits, tenths, procurations, and all taxes whatsoever[t]."

1291. The Taxation Book of Pope Nicholas contains the following

[s] Hundred Rolls, Ed. I.

[t] Bp. Kennett, vol. i. p. 428-9.

entries: p. 31, Abbatis Oseneye Ecclesia de Wat. Pyrie 6*l.* 13s. 4d.; p. 44, Abb' Osen. h't in Wat pir' in t'rris redd' mol. 1*l.* 18s. 0d.

1314. About this time numerous writs were issued to Richard de Bellafago and Robert Fitz-Elys, joint owners of Purie and Ledehalle. They were both summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots, and, by general proclamation, to attend the Great Council at Westminster on Wednesday next after Ascension Day, A. D. 1324. The latter, who held the title of Banneret or Knight, was also appointed Conservator of the Peace, Commissioner of Array, and Leader of the levies in the counties of Oxford and Berks. The oath of office was administered to him by the Bishop of Lincoln and Abbot of Oseney, who were also directed to assist him in his duties[u].

1341. (circa.) In the Nonarum Inquisitiones, Ed. III., is the following:—Waterpirie. Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus portionibus suis taxatur ad 7 lib. cujus nona predicta asseditur ad 6 lib. 13s. 4d. et non plus, per juratores et inquisitores predicta que gleba valet. 10s. nec sunt ibidem catallarii ut dicunt, &c.

1343. Robert Fitz-Elys, Sheriff of Oxford and Berks[v].

1350. Hugo Plascy died seized of this manor and 23 others[x].

1376, 1382. Margaret, wife of Robert Fitz-Elys, is reported as possessed of Wormenhall, Ocle and Waterpyrie manors, and one messuage in Thomleye[y]. Also in the latter year, of "Beaufo manor," by which it appears that the possessions of Ric. de Bellifago had passed to Fitz-Elys.

1413. By a deed dated at Waterpery John Fitz-Elys grants to Thomas Chaucer and others his manor of Oakley, on condition they should enfeoff Joan his wife in the premises during life, with remainder to Maud his sister, then to Robert James, of Borstall[z], who married first Catharine de la Pole, secondly the said Maud Fitz-Elys, and deceased A.D. 1431, leaving the manor of Oakley in possession of Maud, who retained it till her decease A.D. 1437. By this and other notices it appears that John Fitz-Elys was a friend, if not a kinsman, of Thomas Chaucer, (son of the poet), M.P. for Oxon, and one of the heroes of Agincourt, and if associated with him in the service of Henry V. is probably the person represented by the stone effigy in the Lord's aisle.

1470. Margaret, who was wife of Robert Phisseles, alias Fittyelis, deceased, is reported as possessed of Waterpery and Ledehall manors[a], with possessions in Wollampton, Inglefield, Aldermaston, and Redyng.

[u] Parliamentary Writs, vol. ii. div. 3. p. 36.
[v] Clark's H. of Wanting.
[x] Inquisit. post mortem.
[y] Inquisit., vol. ii. p. 341, and vol. iii.
[z] Chartulary of Borstall, ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 222.
[a] Inq., vol. iv.

The Robert and Margaret Fitz-Elys here mentioned, are the persons depicted in the north window of Water-pery Church, near the pulpit, and whose arms are engraved p. 249. Margaret was the daughter of William Fawkener of Kingsclere, knt., and in her right Robert Fitz-Elys received from certain trustees the above possessions in Berkshire. Their only daughter Margeria did not survive her mother, for upon the decease of the said Margaret, the above Fawkener as well as the Fitz-Elys possessions descended to Sibilla, daughter of Margeria, who at the time of the Inquisition, being six years of age, was betrothed to George Ingleton[b], who became Lord of Thornton, Bucks, about the year 1472, and was afterwards High Sheriff for the counties of Buckingham and Bedford[c]. The issue of this marriage was an only son Robert, who upon his father's decease in 1494 succeeded to the Ingleton estates, his mother retaining in dower those of her own inheritance. In 1503 Robert Ingleton deceased, leaving an only daughter Jane, of the age of nine months[d]. The wardship of the infant heiress was by King Henry the Seventh committed to his favourite Sir Richard Empson, on whose attainder at the accession of Hen. VIII. she was entrusted to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who in the year 1514 assigned the wardship of her to John Bradbury, of London, and James Bodley, of Walden, Essex, which Bodley in the year 1519, married her to his kinsman Humphrey Tyrrell, son of William Tyrrell, of South Ockingdon, Essex. This Humphrey, the fifteenth in descent from the well-known Walter Tyrrell, on making proof of the marriage, had livery of the lands of his wife's inheritance, and died 1550, leaving an only son George, twenty years of age[e]. After three years of widowhood, Jane Tyrrell, contemplating a second marriage, with Alexander St. John, Esq., by a deed bearing date May 17th, in the fourth year of Edward VI., secures to her son George, upon payment of certain sums, all her manors and estates, reserving to herself the issues and profits during her life[f]. The union which followed upon the execution of this deed was of short continuance; for it appears that Jane St. John died A. D. 1557, leaving Sir George Tyrrell, her son, her sole heir[g]. He is reported to have "impaired the family estate very much, and squandered away several manors," among which were Waterpery and Ledall, which, by a deed bearing date May 20th, 1562, he conveyed to Thomas Typping, Esq., of Shabbingdon, on consideration of receiving

[b] Inq. p. m. R. F., A.D. 1470. in Tower of London.
[c] Fuller's Worthies.
[d] Inq. at Rolls Chapel, 73, 74.
[e] B. Willis H. of Buckingham and Lipscomb's Bucks.
[f] MSS. of J. W. Henley, Esq., M.P.
[g] Thornton Brasses.

four hundred pounds "at the sealing of these presents," and a residue of fourteen hundred at the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsuntide next ensuing, to be paid in or near the porch of the parish church of Thornton. On the seal appended to this document, are the initials G. T., with the arms of Ingleton, viz., 3 tuns, with flames issuing from their bung-holes.

In the parish church of Thornton are still preserved two very fine brasses, one of Jane Ingleton, and the other of her ancestor, Robert, the first of his family at Thornton, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward IV. These are accurately described by Browne Willis in his Hundred of Buckingham, and, with the exception of the bells and the effigies of John and Isabella Barton, are the only remains visible of the ancient church and chantry of Thornton. Neither Sir George Tyrrell or his mother seem to have borne the arms of Fitz-Elys, but they appear in the quarterings of Sir Edward Tyrrell, who was member for the town of Buckingham, and who was the eldest son of Sir George by his first wife, Ellen, second daughter by a third wife of Sir Edward Montague, Lord Chief Justice of England and of the Common Pleas in the time of King Henry VIII., and Edward VI.

1527. April 7th died Walter Curson, the first of his family at Waterpery. He held a lease of the estate of Waterpery and Ledall, granted four years previously to this date, which is mentioned "as enduring for several years yet to come" in the time of his grandson Vincent. He was descended from the ancient and honourable house of the Cursons of Derbyshire[h], being the third son of Walter Curson of Kedleston. He married Isabella, daughter of Robert Sanders, Esq., of Harington, Northamptonshire, by whom he had eight sons and seven daughters. At his death was erected, in the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, at Water Pery, the monumental window described above. He seems to have been a considerable benefactor to the house of Augustine Friars, in Oxford, which stood on the present site of Wadham College. Like their founder, Sir John Handlo, he was interred within their chapel, where was laid down to his memory the handsome brass monument, also described above, which was "piously removed to Waterpery at the Dissolution[i]."

1534. In the Ecclesiastical survey of Henry the Eighth, are the following returns :—

Waterpery[k].	£.	s.	d.
Sir Roger Watkyn, Vicar there,	viij	—	xvj

[h] Queen's Coll. MSS., Harl. MS. 4170, Wood's MS. E. I., Legh's Visitation, Wood's MS. D. 14.

[i] Dugdale Mon., in August. Friars, Ox.

[k] Val. Ec., ii. 171.

p. 217. *Waterpery, Thomley, cum Ledall.*

Rectory, with demesne lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, let on lease to John Brown, Knt., is worth, per annum vj*l.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

In quit rent of the same John for certain lands in Ledehaull to the amount of vijs. vjd. per annum,

The Abbot prays to have the following payments allowed:—

Portion to the Prioress of Goring and her successors for ever, for tythes in Thomley per annum x*s.*

Perpetual pension to the Vicar of Waterpery, for a certain tythe per annum, as per account xxvj*s.* viij*d.*

Procurations paid to the Archdeacon of Oxford, yearly vij*s.* vij$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*

And the clear value is iiij*l.* ix*s.* —$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*

The Abbot and Canons of Oseney had also lands and tenements in Ledehall, of the yearly value of 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

1538. When Henry the Eighth seized the possessions of Oseney[1], he granted the Rectory of Waterpery to Chamberlayne and Andrewes.

1543. Richard Curson, son of Walter, purchases the Rectory from Chamberlayne and Andrewes.

1562, July 1, Vincent Curson, grandson of Walter, purchases the manor and estate of Waterpery and Ledall from Thomas Typpinge, Esq., of Shabbington, who had bought them of Sir George Tyrrell, on the 20th of May previous.

The Cursons continued to own the estate, and in most cases to present to the Vicarage, till the close of the eighteenth century.

In Bacon's Liber Regis, p. 797, it is stated that Sir John Curson presented in 1682; Thomas Rowney, Esq., 1716; the King, 1719; and the clear yearly value was £35. In consequence of a munificent gift by the late Joseph Henley, Esq., an augmentation of £23. 15*s.* 2*d.* per annum was obtained from Queen Anne's bounty. The present value is £60 a year, and the population 243.

The last of the Curson family, in 1787 devised the estate, manor, and advowson, to the Honourable Francis Roper, uncle to the then Lord Teynham, who took the name of Curson[m]. From the family of Roper-Curson, they passed by purchase to the father of the present proprietor, Joseph Warner Henley, Esq., M.P.

The feast-day of dedication is the Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, old style.

[1] MSS. of J. W. Henley, Esq., M.P.

[m] British Topog., vol. ii. p. 362.

The blazoning of the earlier arms in Waterpery church[n] is as follows:—A. a bend between 6 fleurs-de-lis G., Fitz-Elys. S. a mullet between 3 falcons A. belled, beaked and membered O., Fawkener. *Per pale G. S. an eagle displayed A. beaked and membered O. S. a fesse dancetté A. Erm. 3 chevronells G.* Among fragments of early glass in the cinquefoiled arches of the lights of the Curson obituary window, Per saltire A and B., Pipard. 3 fusils in fesse G., Montague. O. 3 piles in point B. Those in italics have entirely disappeared.

An extract from the will of Walter Curson[o] is subjoined, as an interesting document relating to this church, and not generally accessible.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

"The xxiiij day of the moneth of Nouembre the yere of oure Lord God M CCCCC XXVJ I Walter Curson of Waterpury in the countie of Oxforde gentilman hoole and pfyte in mynde and vnderstonding make by the suffrance of Allmyghty God my last will and Testament in maner and forme folowing / First I bequēth my soule vnto Allmyghty God his blessed mother Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heuen my bodie to be buried wiñ y^e^ church of eny suche pisshe or other religiouse house where I shall fortune to be at in the houre of my depting or deth. Also I will and gyue to the Church of Lincoln xvj^d^ Also I Woll to be gyuen to the rode light of Waterpury Church vj^s^ viij^d^ And to the helpe and mayntenñce of other lightes wiñ the same church iij^s^ iiij^d^ Also I Woll and gyue to the iiij orders of Freers in Oxforde for iiij Trentalls to be doēn and had for my soule and my frends soules xl^s^ equally to be deuyded that is to Wit to every one of them x^s^ Also I woll that Isabell my wife and Richard my sonne doo and cause to be doon all suche Werkemanshipp and Coste as shallbe by theire discretions bestowed vpon the taking downe of the leade and Tiles of the rofe of Waterpury church and the same Rofe to repaire in all places fawtye and couer it ageyn as they shall thinke necessarie by theire discrecons Also I woll that Isabell my wife and Richard my Sonne for theire tymes shall pay cōtinually euery yere to the prio$\bar{r}$ of the Augustyne freers in Oxforde for the tyme beying for the soules of me and my Wife my Father and Mother and all my Kynsefolks to be prayed for foreuermore x^s^ for the which x^s^ I woll that there be iij coletts sayed euery day yerely for euer at and in the high masse that is to Witt the Colet of Deus qui Charitatis dona pgram &c The colect in the secrets of the masse and the colect of Deus cui ppr$\tilde{m}$ And the saied Prio$\bar{r}$ for the tyme beying to bestowe iij^s^ iiij^d^ pcell of the said x^s^ vppon the Brithern of the said house in a repaste yerely and the other vj^s^ viij^d^ residue to be to thuse and supportacōn of the sayed house of Augustyns for eū. And if it happen the sayed memoriall prayers and Coletts not to be sayed informe aforesayed Than I woll that all suche psons as hereafter I have assigned to be charged w^t^ the doying thereof shall bestowe the sayed monney in the house of the Blake Freers in Oxforde the sayed prayers and Coletts there to be doon for the sayed monney in maner and forme afore sayed Also I woll Isabell my wife and Richard my sonne do cawse one honest preste to sing for me and for my frends immediately after my decease, and to continue so by the space of one hole yere."

The following charters relating to this parish are extant in the Oseney Register.

[n] Wood's MS. D. 14.

[o] In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

Bailiwick of Pyrye, Ledhal, Thomle, Draycot, Stoke.

1. A chart by which William son of Elye, by the wish and entreaty of Emma his wife, gives the Church of Waterpyrye to Oseney with its appurtenances.

2. A confirmation of the above by William son of William Fitz-Elye with one virgate of land.

3. Final concord upon a dispute with John Leech, Abbot of Oseney, respecting part of advowson in the 20th year of Hen. III. The party executing this deed is William, son of William, in the presence of his mother Roesia de Rokele, and he speaks of Emma as his grandmother.

4. Final concord together with a virgate of land, free passage and commonage in field of Pyrye. Same date and same witness.

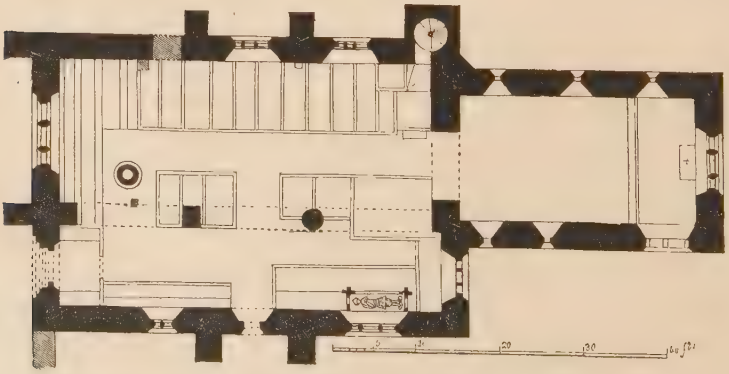
5. A charter of Richard Bellifago concerning certain islands near Stokes, alias Stokesham.

6. A charter concerning a certain messuage with a curtilage for the use of the Vicar of Pery, for building his house, by the last mentioned William and his wife Margery, for the benefit of his own soul and the souls of his wife and children.

7. The consecration of the Church at Waterpyrye.

N.B. The Chartulary or Register of Oseney Abbey, in the Archives of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, was compiled in the time of William de Sutton, abbot of Oseney, about 1275, i. e. between 1267 and 1284. It was given to Christ Church in exchange for the Annales Burtonienses, by Sir Robert Cotton, as appears by a note in Sir Robert's handwriting on the first page. This valuable relique could not have been consigned to better keeping, for, while it has been preserved with all the care it deserves, great courtesy has always been shewn in affording an inspection of it for the purposes of antiquarian research, as may be seen by the large extracts and acknowledgments of Bishop Kennett and others.

J. BARON, VICAR.



Ground Plan of Waterpery Church.

WATERSTOCK.

PATRON.
W. H. ASHHURST, ESQ.

St. Leonard.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF THAME.

The present Church is a modern structure of the year 1792, with the exception of the north aisle and tower, which are of Perpendicular character. The west window of the tower appears by its mouldings to belong to the Decorated period. Rising from the eastern battlement of the tower, an unusual position, is a bell-cot of singular shape. The Font is early, cylindrical, and quite plain, remaining apparently in its original position, as the drain when cleared of the obstructions in the upper part in 1829 was found to carry off the water readily, and has been regularly used to the present time. Affixed to the south wall of the Chancel is the monument of Sir George Croke, who died A.D. 1641. It is figured in Skelton's Oxfordshire. Copious notes of the arms and stained glass in the old Church and manor-house, taken about 1660, will be found in Wood's M.S. E. I. in the Ashmolean Museum. From these the following are extracted as those which are principally interesting, and because some mutilated remains of the figures referred to may still be perceived in a window of the north aisle.

"In the north window two clergymen (perhaps one a laic) all in blew kneeling before deskes. Over these, pictures of Saints, with their names under them, Ignatius, St. Maria, St. Swithin.—Under these, "Orate pro animabus Magistri Johannis Browne quondam rectoris istius ecclesiæ et Thomæ Browne et — Ilis uxoris ejus, parentum ejus qui me fieri fecit."

"In a north window pictures of St. Barbara, St. Trinitas, St. Anna. Under these a man between two women praying, and the arms of Danvers quartering Bruly. Under all, "Orate pro animabus .... filiæ Jacobi Finys .... qui istam ecclesiam (fecerunt?) anno graciæ, MCCCCLXXX."

"In a south window, under the portraits and arms of Archbp. Nevill and Bp. Waynflete, "Orate pro animabus Georgii quondam Archiepiscopi Ebor. ac Willielmi Waynflete Winton. Episcopi, et Thomæ Danvers."

George Nevill was Archbishop of York from 1464 to 1476, and was translated thither from the see of Exeter. He held the office of Chancellor of the University of Oxford as early as 1456[a], and was a younger brother of the Earl of Warwick surnamed the King-Maker[b]. The remains of the portrait of an Archbishop, habited in his pall, the right hand holding the crozier, the left in the attitude of blessing, may still be distinguished in the north window.

In the Tower are four bells bearing the following inscriptions and dates:

1. Sancte Niccolae, and a stamp, of which a cut is annexed.

2. Henry Knight made Mee 1615, G C. Probably the initials of Sir George Croke, as the donor of the bell, soon after his accession to the estate.

3. 1664. 4. I. W. 1736.

Stamp on Bell in Tower.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

For a detailed history of the manor of Waterstock, and memoirs of distinguished persons connected with it, see Sir Alexander Croke's History of his family, Bp. Kennett's History of Chilton, and Skelton's Oxfordshire. It was formerly one of the fees belonging to the Bp. of Lincoln. In the reign of Henry III. Henry de Colevill held half a knight's fee in Waterstock[c], the remainder was held by Bartholomew Foliott, into whose family the whole appears to have passed. In 1279 Henry Bruilly held Waterstock of the Bishop for one knight's fee, paying scutage and making suit to the hundred court[d].

[a] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 401.
[b] Sir Alex. Croke's Hist., vol. i. p. 564. Godwin's Prelates.
[c] Testa de Nevill., p. 120.
[d] Skelton.

The changes in the ownership of the estate are indicated in the following list of Rectors[e], who seem in all cases to have been presented by the lord of the manor, "as was usually the case before the perpetual advowsons were given to the monks."

1235. Master John of Hadenham, subdeacon to the Church of Waterstock, at the presentation of Bartholomew Foliot. Roll of Robert Grosthead, anno 1.

1241. Master John of Hadenham, to the Church of Waterstoke, at the presentation of Bartholomew Foliot; witnesses Sir John de St. Ægidio, Archdeacon; Master R. de Campeden: Sir John de Dyam, canon, &c. Roll of Robert Grosthead, 7.

1268. Sept. 20. Alexander of Waterstock, subdeacon, presented by Sir William Foliot, knt., to the Church of Waterstock, vacant by death of Master John. Roll of Richard Gravesend, 10.

1326. Nov. 16. Thomas Breuly, clerk, presented by Sir John Breuly to the Church of Waterstock, vacant by death of Sir Richard. Reg. Burgwersh.

1411. Thomas Taylor, presented by William Bruly of Waterstoke, to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of John Umfrey, Jan. 30, resigned March 6, same year, and Sir Thomas Derecors succeeded. Reg. of Reppingdon, Bp. of Lincoln.

1422. March 16. John Kent, priest, presented by John Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Thomas Derecors. The inquisitors say that the said John Danvers hath the right of presentation, in that turn to the said church, by reason of his feoffature in the manor of Waterstock with the advowson of the said church, by gift and concession of Will. Bruly, which William presented last time to the same. Reg. Flemmyng.

1467. Aug. 18. Master John Parys, "decr. bacc." presented by Walter Mauntell, Knt., and Joan his wife, to the Church of Waterstoke by death of John Kent. Reg. Chedworth.

1499. March 14. John Chapman, priest, presented by Thomas Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Master John Browne. Reg. Smith.

1501. Sept. 15. Robert Wright, priest, presented by Thomas Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Sir John Chapman.

1534. William Wylmoll, Rector.

[e] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 389.

1580. Sept. 14. John Rider, clerk, to the Church of Waterstock, at the presentation of Edw. Cave of Bampton, Esq., resigned 1581. Reg. Grindall, Archbp. of Canterbury.

1609. John Stayning signs a terrier as Rector.

1616. Charles Croke, D.D., presented by Sir G. Croke in June, resigned in October.

1627. Henry Croke, D.D., presented by Sir G. Croke, died 1642.

Robert Turner, minister, died 1658.

1664. John Quarne, Rector.

1677. Charles Hinde, Rector, presented by G. Croke, Esq., buried 1725.

1725. Edward Lewis, presented by Sir Henry Ashhurst.

1784. Robert Bertie Broughton Robinson.

1827. Gibbes Walker Jordan.

The entry in the Book of Henry VIII.[f] is as follows :—

WAT'STOKE.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sir William Wylmott, rector there	xj	vj	viij
Deduct for synods and promotions	—	x	vij½
Remainder	x	xvj	—½
The tenth	—	xxj	vij¼

It is now valued at £58. The number of inhabitants is 142.

J. B.

[f] Valor. Eccles. Hen. VIII.

ALBURY.

PATRON.
EARL OF ABINGDON.

St. Helen.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

The old Church

The old Church was picturesque, though without any very remarkable architectural features. The present Church is a modern building, in imitation of the Gothic style, with a bell-gable at the west end. The ancient Font has been preserved, and is a good specimen of Norman work, with some rather curious ornament upon it.

The Chapel of Rycote is situated in the park, at about half a mile from Albury, but is in the parish of Haseley. An account of it will be found in Mr. Weare's Memoir of Haseley Church and Parish, published for the Society.

The Font.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

ALDBURY OR ALDBURG.

The name signifies the old borough or town. It stands on the same ground where the ancient Roman station Isurium was. Dr. Plot will have Henley to be the ancientest town in this county, and grounds his conjecture much upon the derivation of it from the British word *hen*, which signifies old, and *ley*, a place; but vulgar tradition runs "that Aldbury was the mother of Henley, and consequently is older," which the Doctor thus far allows: that it is probable that Christian Henley may be younger than Aldbury in respect of a church built first here, but upon no other account[a]. In Domesday Book it is written Alwoldesberie and Aldeberie, and formed part of the fee of earl William. Walter, son of Pony and Rainald, at the time of the Norman survey, held land here.

A.D. 1255. In the Hundred Rolls, 39 Henry III. p. 714, the village of Aldebur is held of the Countess de l'Isle by the service of half a knight's fee, and Sampson Foliot holds the manor in the name of the award which is between the countess and Roger Foliott; and the same Sampson held five virgates and a half of land belonging to the lordship. There are twelve tenants in servitude.

A.D. 1474. An inquisition was held respecting the advowson of Aldebury, from which it appeared that Geoffrey Gate had acquired the right of patronage by marriage with Agnes Brown, widow of William Brown, gentleman, and daughter and heiress of Thomas Baldynton, Esq.[b], the rightful patron.

[a] Magna Brit., vol. iv. p. 421.

[b] Kennett, vol. ii. p. 414.

The following list of Rectors is taken from the Lincoln registers by Kennett, with some corrections and additions by Sir Henry Ellis, from the same source. It serves at the same time to shew the successive changes of the property of the manor :—

RECTORS OF ALBURY.

1225. John de Clavely or Claxeby, subdeacon, presented by Roger Foliot[c].
1227. William de . . . ., chaplain, presented by Roger Foliot[d].
1238. John de Cambes, subdeacon, presented by Peter Foliot[e].
1278. Rad. de Bungeye, subdeacon, presented by Sampson Foliot[f].
Hugh de Langele.
1298. William le Despenser, clerk, presented by John de London[g].
1327. Ric. de Babeham, priest, presented by John le Despenser[h].
1411. Thomas Thame, upon whose resignation in 1411, Richard Seddon, presented by Walter de Walkestede, Rector of Charlton-upon-Otmoor, by concession of William Baldyngton, Lord of Albury[i].
John Byllyng, resigned in 1431.
1431. John Anneys, priest, presented by William Baldyngton[k].
1459. John Kendale, priest, presented by William Brome[l].
1474. John Bowes, chaplain, presented by Geoffrey Gate, knight, and Agnes his wife[m].
1595. Richard Wightwick, S.T.B., presented by Lord Henry Norris of Ricott[n].
1670. William More.
1712. Dr. William Tilly.
1739. Dr. William Bertie.
1758. — Harrington.
1759. Christopher Robinson.
1804. George Wasey.
1813. John Curtis.
1813. The Honourable Frederick Bertie.

The Rectory was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 10*l.*, with payments out for synodals, &c. 10*s.* 7½*d.*, and to the prioress of Studley 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving the net value 9*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* It is now valued at 276*l.*, and the population is 239.

[c] Reg. Hugh Wells, an. 16.
[d] Ibid., an. 18.
[e] Reg. Rob. Grosthead, an. 4.
[f] Reg. R. Gravesend, an. 20.
[g] Reg. Ol. Sutton.
[h] Reg. Burghwersh.
[i] Reg. Repyndon.
[k] Reg. Gray.
[l] Reg. Chedworth.
[m] Reg. Rotherham.
[n] Reg. Whitgift.
[o] Parish Reg.

FOREST HILL.

PATRON.
LINCOLN COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

The Church

A SMALL oblong Church, without aisles, with a bell-gable at the west end; it is chiefly transition Norman work, probably built about A.D. 1200.

The CHANCEL has two lancet windows on each side widely splayed, and round-headed in the inside, with good simple Early English dripstones over them, and stringcourses under them: the east window is modern and very bad, with wooden tracery. The Chancel-arch is round horse-shoed, square edged, and not

recessed, the imposts are plain Norman with the edges chamfered off.

The NAVE has one Norman window remaining on the north side, round-headed and plain, and a similar one on the south side, the other is modern. The west window is late Perpendicular. On the north side is a small transition Norman doorway with a pointed arch, with a good bold dripstone and imposts. The south doorway has a plain segmental head, with the edges merely

The Porch.

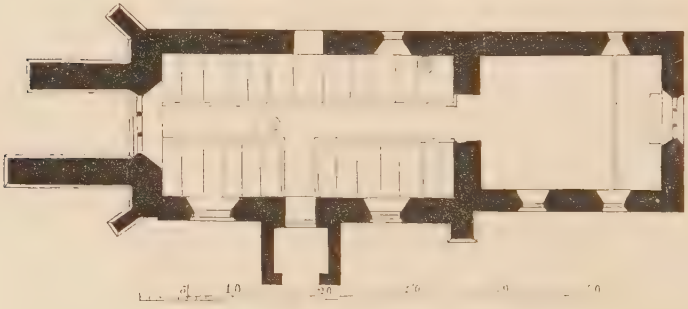
chamfered off. The outer doorway of the porch is good transition Norman, approaching near to Early English, having shafts with capitals ornamented with the stiff-leaf foliage, but with square abacusses, the arch is also square in section.

Section of Door.

The bell-gable at the west end is a remarkably picturesque object, and from its situation is visible from a considerable distance, it has openings for two bells, and a smaller opening above; it appears to be part

of the original building of transition Norman work, but has had two tremendous buttresses attached on the west side to support it, projecting one 14 feet, the other 11 feet 4 inches: this great irregularity arises apparently from the nature of the ground, this part of the Church being close to the brow of the hill; the buttresses are of comparatively late work, although not modern, the mouldings are of Italian character; there are also smaller buttresses at the angles, these are of Perpendicular work of the same age as the west window, which is evidently an insertion.

I. H. P.



Ground plan of the Church

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1273, 1 and 2 Edward I. On July 6th, the Chapel of Forest-Hull was dedicated to St. Nicholas the Confessor, by Reginald Bishop Suffragan of Cloyne in Ireland, substituted by Richard Bishop of Lincoln, to visit these parts of the Diocese of Lincoln, and to consecrate new Churches[a].

A.D. 1285. The Abbott of Oseney held one knight's fee in Forest-Hull[b].

The estate and Chapel of Forest Hill formed part of the grant of Robert D'Oiley to the Church of St. George in Oxford Castle, afterwards transferred to the Abbey of Oseney, and is mentioned in the foundation charter of that Abbey[c].

[a] Kennett, vol. i. p. 432.

[b] Ibid.

[c] Dugdale, Mon. Ang., vol. ii. p. 138.

It remained part of the possession of that Abbey till the Dissolution. Since that period, the manor-house, with a considerable part of the estate and the patronage of the church, have become the property of Lincoln College.

The Poet Milton married his first wife from this place. The register of her baptism is yet preserved, and is as follows; "Maria Powell, the daughter of Richard Powell, baptized the 28th day of January, 1625." The house in which Mr. Powell lived has been in part destroyed, but there are yet existing against the west ends of two out-houses some very curious remains of ornamental plastering, which seem as old as the time of Milton, one of them is an allusion to the subject of Paradise Lost. An anchor is represented as an heraldic device on the other wall.

Another celebrated poet, William Julius Mickle, was yet more intimately connected with Forest Hill. He married the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Tomkins of this place, and lies interred on the north side of the Church, without any memorial over his grave. There are several tombstones in the Churchyard to individuals of the Tomkins' family, having upon them engraved lines in verse, some of which appear to be written by Mickle himself.

HEADINGTON.

PATRON.
REV. T. WHORWOOD.

St. Andrew.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

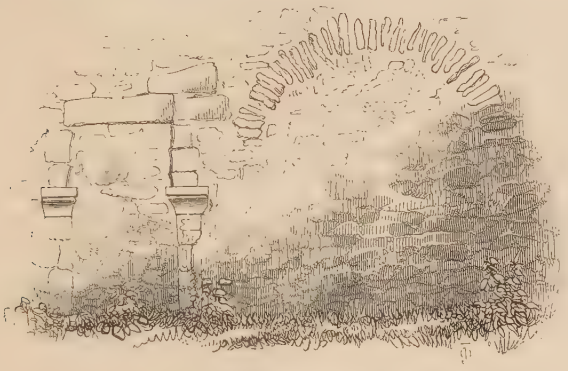
South-east View of the Church

A PLAIN Church of mixed styles, but with good portions, particularly the Tower and Chancel-arch.

It consists of a Chancel, a Nave with south and north aisles, and a Tower at the west end of the south aisle.

The CHANCEL, which is the oldest part of the Church, is rather large in proportion to the Nave; the walls are Norman, and on the outside of the north wall are the remains of a Norman doorway, the imposts of which yet remain, but the

stones of the arch have been built into the wall, so as to make it square-headed. Near this is a large semicircular arch of rude



Doorway, North side of Chancel.

stones; eastward of this is a small foliated lancet window, which from its mouldings appears to be of the commencement of the fourteenth century, or end of the thirteenth; the quarries of glass in the upper part of this window, still retain their original painting.

Window, North side of Chancel.

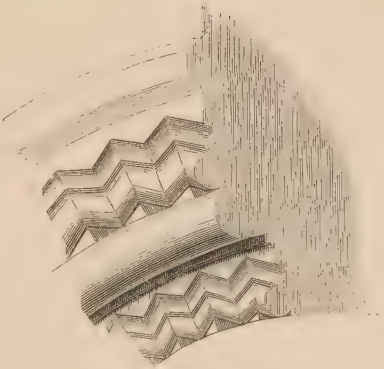
The gable at the east end has evidently been raised since the Norman times, and has on the point the base of a cross, the upper part of which is broken off. The greater part of this end has been taken down, the original window removed, and a modern round-headed one inserted, which very much injures the effect. In the south wall, two Perpendicular windows have been inserted: these windows are divided by a mullion, running up to the point of the head; they are without labels, and are widely splayed within. In these windows are portions of stained glass, which have belonged to earlier windows, and there are also a

few painted quarries of the same date as the windows. The Altar platform is approached by three steps, and the Chancel itself by one. In the south wall is a projecting moulding, which marks the place of a piscina now filled up, and near this in the sill of the adjoining window, is a sedile for the priest. There has evidently been a good arched timber roof, which is now plastered over except the ends of the transverse ribs, and the pendants or wall-pieces on which they rest: these and the corbels have Perpendicular mouldings; two on the north side are supported by angels, one of which has a book; of the corbels on the south, one has a plain shield, another a head with long hair and beard, the third a bishop's head, and the fourth a shield charged with three escallops. They appear, as well as the roof, to be early in the fifteenth century, and are most probably of the same age as the windows.

Chancel arch the Pews removed

The Chancel-arch is plain on the east side, but on the west

it is recessed, and ornamented with a double zigzag with a bold round moulding between them, which rises from a shaft on each side. The zigzag is carried down the jambs; the shaft on the south side is plain, but that on the north is twisted for about a third of its length, and the remainder richly sculptured in beaded interlaced work. The capitals are slightly varied from the cushion-shape, and the abacus and imposts are cut with the beaded star-ornament. It is much to be regretted, that a great part of the lower part of the chancel-arch is entirely concealed by unsightly pews, and that a portion on the north side has been cut away to make room for a sitting.



Section of Chancel-arch.

Shaft of Chancel-arch

Over the chancel-arch, both on the east and west sides, is a pointed arch, which seems evidently to have been formed as a discharging arch, to bear off the superincumbent weight from the Norman arch when the chancel was raised, and the Early English nave added: such arches being seldom so well built, as to bear much weight. Numerous instances may be seen in which the pressure from above has had the effect of depressing the arch, and widening the jambs, and consequently throwing them out of the perpendicular, and this is the case with the present one.

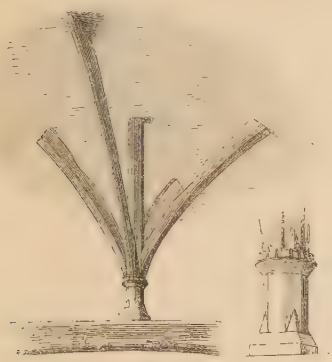
The Nave and south aisle are Early English, and are divided by three arches, supported by massive round pillars, with good moulded capitals and bases. In the south wall are two lancet

windows, plain on the outside, but widely splayed within, with a hollow in the head. The east window of this aisle is rather singular, it consists of three trefoil-headed lights, with the head solid, and on the outside a label, enclosing all three. The label is a plain round moulding, and the edges of the lights simply chamfered. Near this window in the south wall, is a plain Early English piscina with a credence-shelf, but almost covered up by a pew. No trace of an Altar can be seen under this window, but in the north-east angle are the remains of an oblique opening, and also of the stairs to the roodloft, which have been cut through the solid wall. The south door is Early English, plain, but with good mouldings. The original door has lately been replaced by a new one, copied from the old, and the original iron-work retained. Over this doorway, is a late plain porch. The west window is a good Decorated specimen: it consists of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The label is a plain round, terminating in a head and a knop of foliage, and the jambs are plainly chamfered. The roof is of the fourteenth century, having a tie-beam supported by braces, and a king-post with base and battlemented capital, supporting longitudinal and transverse struts, and apparently with cross rafters; but this part is covered with a plaster ceiling. It may be here remarked, that *all* the roofs retain their original pitch; as may be seen on the outside, where the weather-moulds and gables still remain as originally built. On the gable of the nave, is a

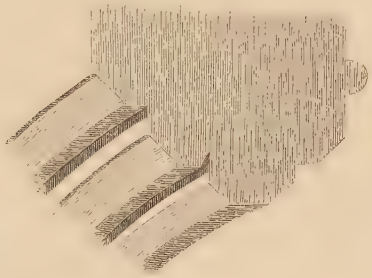
Scratch, South Door.

West Window.

small sancte-bell cot, and that of the south aisle is finished with



King-post to Roof.

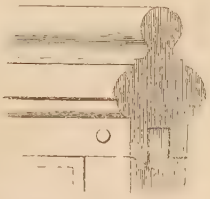


Section of West Window

a cross partly mutilated. In the nave are a number of plain open seats, with good mouldings; but the rest of the nave and chancel are filled with pews of all sizes and heights. The Font, which is a modern one of painted wood, stood till lately at the west end of the nave, but is now removed to within the altar-rails. The north aisle is modern, and in a style not easily to be described: three arches have been cut through the solid wall, in imitation of those on the south, but badly executed.

Open Seats in Nave

The Tower is placed at the west end of the south aisle, and on the east and north sides has Early English arches opening into the Church; these arches are plainly chamfered, but the capitals and bases of the pillars are well moulded, similar to those in the nave: across the eastern arch of the tower is a piece of oak screen-work, good for its period, on which is

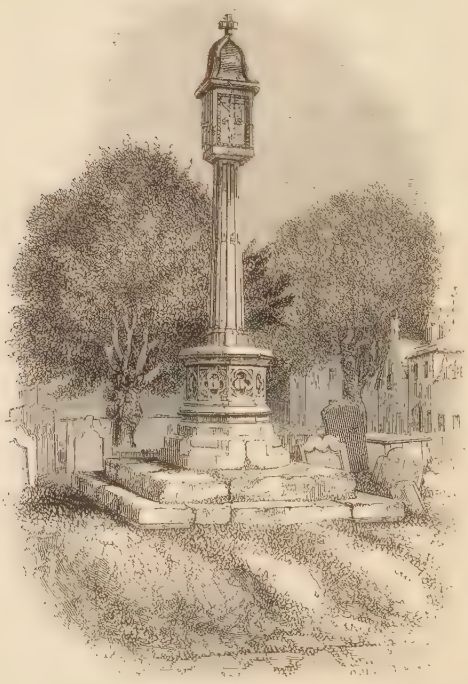


Upper Moulding of Open Seats

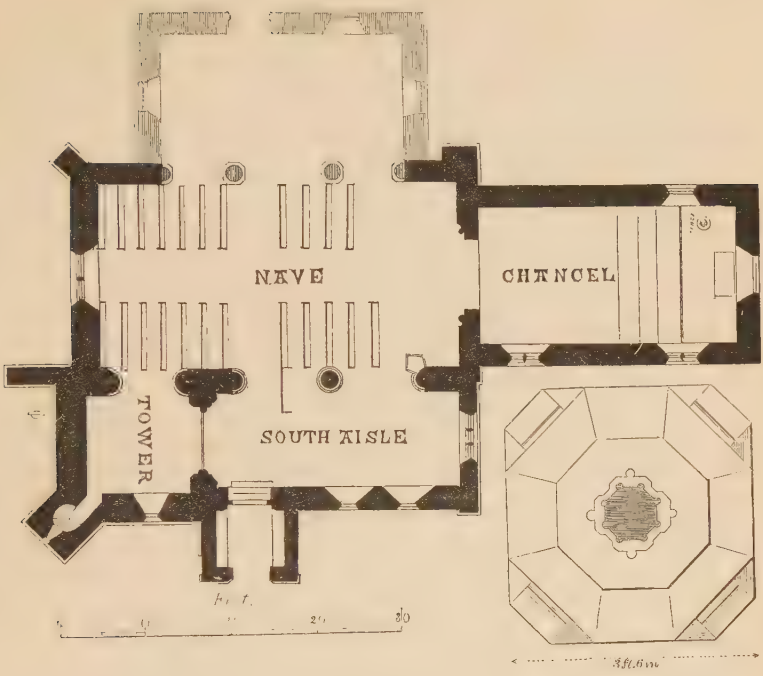
the following date: ($\frac{OA : IC : 1635}{M\ W}$). At the south-west angle is a square stair-turret, which rising above the battlements, very advantageously varies the outline of the tower. The lower story is Early English, the second apparently the same; the upper story, and the outer casing of the whole are Perpendicular. On the south-east side of the turret, a stone is inserted with initials, ($\frac{T\ K : C}{R\ C : W}$ 1679) which mark the date and the name of the churchwardens when some repairs were made to the tower.

In the churchyard, a little to the south-east of the porch, stands a Cross raised on three steps; it consists of an octagonal pedestal, each side of which is ornamented with a quatrefoil enclosing an open book; and an octagonal shaft, up the angles of which run slender shafts, or round mouldings. The head is square and heavy, and evidently of later date than the rest; but on the west side are the remains of a crucifix, with the letters I N R I over the head, and a rose on each side, the whole enclosed in a square border. The head is surmounted by a small modern cross.

O. J.



North west View of the Cross.



Ground-plan of the Church.

Plan of Cross.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The old Roman road passes toward Headington Quarry pits[a].

A.D. 1009. King Ethelred kept the greatest part of his residence in this county, chiefly at Hedington and Islip, and concludes a charter granting privileges to St. Frideswide's here[b].

[The site of King Ethelred's palace is said to have been partly in Court Close, and partly in Mrs. Finch's garden, the present road to Marston running through it. There was certainly some old building of considerable extent on this site, part of which was pulled down about 1820, near Mrs. Finch's barn, and some remains of foundations may still be traced in the orchard, or Court Close, on the opposite side of the road.]

1066. Basset had the Lordship of Hedington.

1132. 32 and 33 Henry I. The King granted to the prior and canons

[a] Kennett, vol. i. p. 23.
[b] Mon. Ang., tom. i. p. 259, ap. Kennett, vol. i. pp. 62—64.

of St. Frideswide's, the Chapel of Hedingdon, Merston, and Benesey, exempt from all taxes and other dues[c].

1179. 25 and 26 Henry II. Thomas Basset, lord of the manor of Burcester, had the lordship of Hedingdon with the hundred of Bolendon, granted to him for his special services to the king in divers wars, from whence this branch of that great family had the title of Basset of Hedingdon.

1218, 2 and 3 Henry III. In the Sheriff's accompts, Petronilla, wife of Jeffery Fleccan, paid 50s. for a mill in Hedingdon, called King's Milne. Thomas Basset answered for £42. 10s. in Hedingdon, and £20 for the fee farm of the said barony[d].

In the Hundred Rolls, temp. Henry III. In Hedingdon are ten hides of the lordship of the King, and Philippa Countess of Warwick holds the said manor, with the hundred of Bulendon and the hundred without the north-gate of Oxford, in fee farm of the King by the service of one knight, and for £20 paid annually to the exchequer, and the manor without the hundred is worth £30, and the hundred of Bulendon is worth £8.

Item, in the same village is a certain hide whose heir is in the custody of the Queen, the son of Philip Muneton, and it belongs to the forest of Shotover and Stowood, and does not follow the hundred.

1292. 20 and 21 Edw. I. Hugh de Plessets had taken to wife Isabel, the third daughter of John de Ripariis, cousin, and one of the heirs to Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, and for the purparty of his said wife had the manor of Hedingdon, with the hundred of Bulendon, and to which Hugh de Plessit in 5 Edw. I. was impleaded by the men of Hedington for depriving and abridging them of their antient customs and priviledges.

Within the said manor and in the King's court at Westminster, a memorable composition was made[e]. These rights and privileges were confirmed to the tenants of Hedingdon by King Edward III. at Westminster, Oct. 20, regni 29. The same grants were renewed and ratified by Sir Richard d'Amory, lord of the manor of Hedingdon, 31 Edw. III. and again confirmed at Oxford by King Richard II. Oct. 4, regni 16[f].

Hugh de Plugenet, with consent of Josceus his son, had granted to the church of St. Frideswide's common pasture in his manor of Hedingdon, and a ground in the said parish called Godenthecroft, and thirty acres of

[c] Kennett, vol. i. p. 125.
[d] R. Dods. MS. vol. lxxxix. f. 118.
[e] Ex Regist. Borstall, penes D. John Aubrey, Bart., ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 452-4.
[f] Vide ex Regist. Borstall, penes D. John Aubrey, Bart.

arable land, and all the tithe of his own demesne and of his tenants in Hedingdon and Merston, and the rent of Hakelingcroft, to find one lamp in the church of Hedingdon.

1305. 34 and 35 Edw. I. An inquisition was taken at Oxford on the Saturday before Easter Day, to enquire how the manor of Hedington alienated from the Crown. The jurors returned upon oath that Henry II. King of England, gave the said manor of Hedington with the hundred of Bolendon, and the hundred without the north gate of Oxford, to Thomas Basset and his heirs for ever, for his good services in divers wars, paying to the exchequer the yearly rent of £20 in silver. After him the said manor descended to Phillippa and Juliana, his daughters, the elder dying without heirs, the manor passed to Isabella, daughter of Juliana, by John de Ripariis. Isabella married Hugh de Plessets, who, after his wife's death, made an exchange with the King for the manor of Compton; by which means the said manor of Hedington was now in the King's hands. And the said Hugh de Plessets settled on Thomas, his son and heir, the manors of Kidlington, Hokenorton, and Missenden, in lieu of his right to the manor of Hedindon, which he had given to the King.

1308. 1 and 2 Edw. II. Sir John de Handlo, of Borstale, was made governor of St. Briavel's castle, in Gloucestershire, and purchased from Philip Mymeken the Bailewick of the forest of Shotover and Stowode, with all appertenances in the village of Hedingdon, but for acquiring and entering upon the said bailewick without the King's licence, he was obliged to procure a royal pardon.

1316. 9 and 10 Edw. II. Alice, the relict of Philip Mymekan, in consideration of £10 received in hand, released and quitted claim to the said Sir John Handlo, all her right to the lands and tenements in Hedington, which her husband had conveyed to him.

1346. Sir John de Handlo deceased, leaving his possessions to Isabel, his son's widow, who had married after the death of her husband Robert de Ildesle, knight.

1347, 21 and 22 Edward III. Sir Richard de Amory paid a fine to the king for leave to convey his manors of Godingdon and Hedingdon, and the hundred of Bolingdon, in the county of Oxon, to Sir Otho de Holland.

1375, 49 and 50 Edward III. Sir Richard de Amory, late lord of the manors of Bucknell and Godington, and present possessor of several lands in Blechingdon, Hedingdon, &c. died, leaving Isabel, the daughter

of Margaret, sister of Sir John Chandos, and the wife of Sir John de Annesley, knight, his heir.

1377, 1 Richard II. An inquisition was made on the death of Sir Richard de Amory, by which it appeared that he held the manor of Hedingdon, &c. by gift of John Chaundos, knight, during the life of Sir Richard, whose heirs were the sisters of Sir John Chaundos, one of the greatest soldiers of his age, who in the 33rd of Edward III. for his many eminent services at the battle of Poictiers, and in other wars of France, was retained by the king to serve him in the office of vice-chamberlain during his life, and had a pension of 100*l.* per annum paid out of the exchequer; and among other lands and profits he now obtained the manor of Hedingdon and the two hundreds of Bolendon and Northgate, which coming formerly to Hugh de Plessets, in right of Isabel his wife, he, the said Hugh, in consideration of 200*l.* &c. conveyed them to king Edward I. in the 33rd of his reign.

The prior and canons of St. Frideswide, Oxford, had enjoyed a right of common for all their cattle within the manor of Hedington, and in the forest of Stowode; which right being denied or disputed, it was now determined, and livery of the said right of common was given to them by Richard Forster, the deputy of Sir Edmund de la Pole, keeper of the said forest.

The kings of England had a chapel in their royal manor of Hedingdon, which was afterwards appropriated to the said priory of St. Frideswide, and a vicarage was then ordained in this manner:—"Vicaria in capelle de Hedindon que est dictorum prioris et conventus S. Frideswide, auctoritate consilii ordinata consistit in omnibus obvencionibus altaris cum minutis decimis tocius parochie, exceptis decimis agnorum et decimus casei de curia domini provenientibus quas prior et canonici, sibi retinebunt. Habebit autem vicarius domum et curiam in quibus capellanus manere consuevit. Et valet vicaria quinque marcas et amplius totalis autem Ecclesia xx marcas[g]."

1399, 22 and 23 Richard II. The king granted to William Willicotes, Esq., in fee, the manor of Hedingdon, county Oxon, with the hundreds of Bolindon, and Northgate, Oxford, in farm for 40*l.* yearly rent, which premises had lately belonged to Sir John Chandos, and were now forfeited to the Crown for defect of payment of the reserved rent[h].

[g] Ex chartular. S. Frideswidæ MS., p. 79. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 158.
[h] R. Dods. MS. vol. liv. f. 152.

1410, 11 and 12 Henry IV. By an inquisition taken in these parts it appeared that William Willicotes, lately deceased, held from the king to himself and his heirs, in socage, the manor of Hedingdon, &c. paying to the king the yearly rent of 40*l.*, and that Thomas Willecotes was his son and heir[i].

1415, 3 Henry V. Thomas Wilcotes, who held the manor of Hedingdon, &c. accounted to the king, in Michaelmas term, for the reliefs of Eliz. Chaundos, Roger Colinge and Alianore his wife, John Annesley and Eliz. his wife, for the manor and hundreds aforesaid, due upon the king's pardon to them[k].

1418, 6 Henry V. By an inquisition taken after the death of Sir Edmund de la Pole, it was found that he was possessed, in right of his wife, of three carucates of land in capite in Hedingdon, county Oxon, by the service of keeping the forests of Shotover and Stowood.

1427, 5 and 6 Henry VI. This manor, with other property, was resettled upon Robert James, Esq., lord of Borstall, for his life, with remainder to Edmund Rede and Cristina his wife, daughter of the said Robert James and Catherine de la Pole.

1435, 13 and 14 Henry VI. An inquisition taken at Oxford, when the jury found that the said Christina Rede assigned to Maud, the widow of Robert James, a third part of the moiety of the manors of Musewell and Hedyngdon, &c.

1445, 23 and 24 Henry VI. Thomas Harald released to Edmund Rede, Esq. all his right and claim to three acres of land in the field of Hedingdon, in the quarre of the said Edmund.

1459, 37 and 38 Henry VI. Edmund Rede, Esq. of Borstall, granted to William Craunford and Thomas Williams his manor of Hedingdon, &c. &c.

In the taxation of ecclesiastical benefices under Pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, the church of Headington was valued at 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; in 1341 it was valued at the same sum.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII., the Rectory and Vicarage of Hedyngton, with Merston and Sydley [Suscot ?], were valued together at 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, namely, the Rectory of Hedyngton and Merston, with its appurtenances, 12*l.*; the Vicarage of Hedington, 3*l.*; the Rectory of Merston, with the small tithes, 2*l.*; the rent of a tenement in

[i] R. Dods. MS. vol. xxxvi. f. 81.

[k] El. Ashmole MS. X. p. 350.

Hedyngton, 13*s.* 4*d.* They belonged at that time to king Henry the VIII.'s college in Oxford[l]. This valuation took place about 1525, and the college must therefore have been the first foundation of Cardinal Wolsey, and this living was lost, with that of St. Clement's and many others, during the interval between the fall of the Cardinal in 1529 and the new foundation in 1532. In which time, says Wood, "most of the lands, tenements, revenues, &c. which belonged to the monasteries dissolved for the erection of this college, were either sold to, or begged by, hungry courtiers and others[m]." The advowson of the vicarage has been in the possession of the family of Whorwood since about the year 1600, when Sir G. Brome, of Holton, whose daughter and heiress married a Whorwood, exchanged land at Haseley and Albury for the advowsons and pasturages of Headington and Marston, and the manor of Headington, Marston, and Bolshipton.

The vicarage is now valued at £118, and the population is reckoned at 1,388.

[l] Valor Eccles., vol. ii. p. 250.

[m] Ant. à Wood, Colleges by Gutch, p. 428.

South Door

Window, East End of South Aisle.

CUDDESDEN.

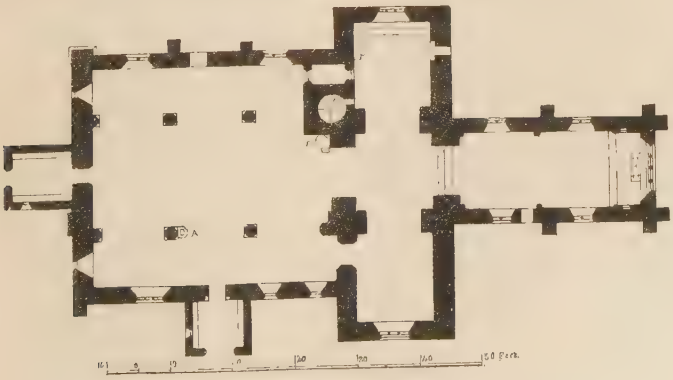
ANNEXED TO THE BISHOPRIC OF OXFORD.

All Saints.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN HUNDRED OF BULLINGDON.

General View from the South-west

This Church, in which many of the most interesting features have been carefully restored, appears to have been originally built towards the close of the twelfth century, on a cruciform plan, with a tower at the intersection, but without aisles.

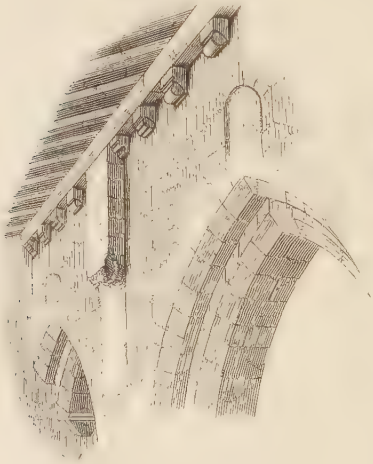


Ground Plan

A.D. 1180 circa. To this period belong the following parts: the arches under the tower; the west doorway, which is a very good specimen of the latest Norman work, with the lozenge moulding half detached, and the tooth ornament, the oak door of which has the original ironwork (see woodcut on p. 294); the south doorway of similar character; the west buttresses; and the walls of the north transept, with one small Norman window, and portions of the corbel-table; the stair-turret at the north-west angle of the tower; the corbel-table on each side of the nave, under the present roofs of the aisles; and the upper parts of pilaster buttresses, of which the lower parts were cut away when the present pillars and arches were built; the opening to the roodloft, with a part of the Norman string under it at the north-east corner of the nave; and the head of one of the original clerestory

Mouldings of Arch of West Door.

Norman Window in Transept

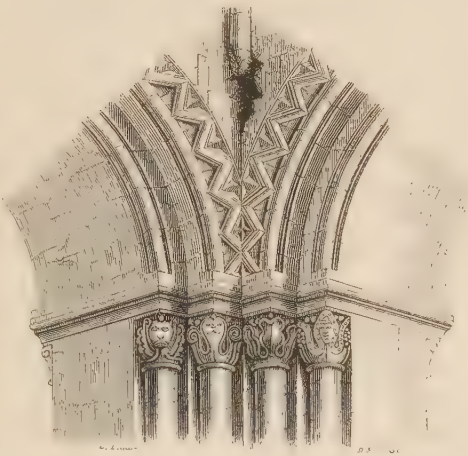


Upper Section of Wall of North Aisle, shewing Buttress cut away.

Junction of last Arch of North Aisle, with opening to Roodloft

windows over the point of the central arch on the north side. In the north transept are the remains of a stone seat with a step which was continued round both transepts.

The four arches under the tower are pointed and recessed, have the edges moulded by a plain round, and above this the zig-zag ornament. Those to the north and south are of greater span by three feet than those to the east and west. The piers are square, with shafts in nooks at the angles, and moulded imposts running across the spring of the arch. This portion of the Chancel had originally a stone groined vault, with moulded ribs, the situation and design of which is clearly marked out by the masonry in the ringing loft; at the terminations of the ribs in the four corners are the remains of the corbels upon which the groining rested.



South-west corner of Tower Arches.

A.D. 1240 circa. To this cruciform Church, built during the period of transition from the Norman to the Early English style, nave aisles were added about the middle of the thirteenth century, with lean-to roofs, low side walls, and small lancet windows, of which three remain on the south side, and at the west end of each aisle is a taller window of the lancet shape. To this Early English period also belong, the

Cap and Base of Pillar, south side of Nave.

piers and arches on both sides of the nave, on the south side the hoodmoulds are of the form called the scroll, and terminated by the peculiar ornament usually called a mask, or by some a buckle; the elegant little corbels on the west side of the Chancel-arch, apparently connected with the roodloft; and on the exterior, the low buttresses of the aisles.

Diaphragm of Window in South Aisle of Nave

Hoodmould of Arch, South Aisle of Nave.

A.D. 1350 circa. The low side walls were raised, and larger windows of the Decorated style, and of two lights, introduced; one small window, of the time of Edward I., was removed and built into the new work over the three small lancet windows on the south side. At this date the south Porch was added, the west Porch having been erected about the beginning of the century.

The west window of the nave is a very singular one, of three lights, cinquefoiled, with quatrefoils in the head, and a transom across at the springing of the arch.

A.D. 1400—1450. The clerestory windows are Perpendicular, single lights, with trefoil heads, the openings inside being square-headed. The window inserted in the north wall of the north transept is Perpendicular, of three lights, cinquefoiled, and retains a few fragments of painted glass.

At the east end of the north aisle of the nave, where it abuts against the transept, is a small window of a single light with a trefoil head, and under this a small square window, divided only by a transom from the one above, but still not part of it; this belongs to the class of low side windows, by some called lychnoscopes, usually found only in the Chancel, it opens at present into a small vestry, but this is a modern arrangement, it is probable that there was originally an Altar close to it.

A.D. 1500. The Chancel is late Perpendicular, having a large east window, which has been well restored, of four lights, with a transom. This, and the priest's door on the south side, are the best parts of the design. The roof, now hidden by a

plaster ceiling, is of oak, but of a plain character. On each side of the Chancel are two clumsy windows, set within arches which appear to have been made in the prospect of aisles being added, but are not carried through the whole thickness of the walls. There are also two rude openings, with pointed arches, in the usual place of piscina and locker.

In the seventeenth century the upper part of the tower was rebuilt, the south transept repaired, and a debased window inserted in its south wall. The oak roof of the nave also belongs to this period. The fittings of the nave and aisles are mostly of the time of King James the First, and good of their kind. Some of the seats have plain square ends, others are ornamented with poppy-heads, somewhat rudely carved, in the shape of fleurs-de-lis. The replacing of the old oak pulpit, together with the modern desk and lettern, also of oak and of good design, help to give a uniformity of appearance to this part of the Church, which is one of the most pleasing results of the restoration, commenced A.D. 1842: the crosses on the gables and on the porch are also a judicious restoration. There are still, however, one or two square pews in the aisles, and across the west end extends a gallery, rebuilt A.D. 1830.

The Font, which is early, is plain, round, and placed on a modern pedestal, to the west of the south door, supposed to be its original position.

There are no early monuments, but among those of later date may be mentioned the following, the first of which recorded by Anthony à Wood has disappeared.

"In an aisle, on the south side of the Church, on a brass plate in the wall, the arms taken away:—Insignia Georgii Barston de Chibbenhurst (qui matrimonium contraxit cum Margeria Doyly de Chiselhampton) armigeri, ex qua genuit filios Johannem; Georgium; Franciscum; Beniamin; et filiam Annam: qui obiit Anno salutis 1607.—There are no arms in the windows[a]."

On the walls of the Chancel,

James King, departed this life A.D. 1620, the son of a master of the London Company of Clothworkers, whose arms are placed over the monument.

Charles Moss, Bishop of Oxford, A.D. 1811.

William Jackson, Bishop of Oxford, A.D. 1815.

[a] Notes taken Feb. 17, A.D. 1658. Wood's MS. B. 15.

In the Church-yard, near the priest's door, is a small tomb of white marble to the memory of Maria, daughter of Bishop Lowth, who departed this life July 5, A.D. 1768.

Of the bells, three are inscribed "Henry Knight made mee Ano. 1617;" a fourth bears the date 1677; a fifth, 1709; a sixth, 1795, the gift of Dr. Smallwell, bishop of Oxford; the seventh is a little bell dated 1748.

Under a tree in the middle of the village is the shaft of a cross with a base of four steps [b].

[b] In drawing up the foregoing account much assistance has been derived from notes by E. A. Freeman, Esq., Trinity College, and others by S. Rooke, Esq., Oriel College.

West Door, with Section through Jamb and Arch-Moulding.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Cuddesden or Cudesdon, with its hamlets Wheatley and Denton, was for nearly six hundred years connected with the Benedictine abbey of St. Mary of Abingdon, and to this circumstance it owes not only the architectural beauties of its Church, but the preservation of many interesting particulars of its early history. A few of these, derived chiefly from two very fine chartularies of the abbey, in the British Museum, are inserted in the following account.

A.D. 956. King Edwy gave to Ælfere, his loyal and illustrious earl, "Cuthenesdune of 20 manses," and he with the consent of the king bestowed it upon the house of the Blessed Mary of Abingdon, and the monks there serving God. After the royal grant to Ælfere follows a statement in Saxon of the boundaries of the land so given, and the whole is thus dated and signed.

Hec carta scriptum est anno dominice incarnationis DCCCCLVI, indictione XXIII.

✠ Ego Eadwius rex anglorum indeclinabiliter concessi.
✠ Ego Eadgar ejusdem regis frater celeriter consensi.
✠ Ego Oda archiepc̃ cum signo sancte crucis roboravi.
✠ Ego Ælsmuf præsul sigillum agie crucis impressi.
✠ Ego Brihtelm epc̃ confirmavi.
✠ Ego Oscytel epc̃ adquievi.
✠ Ego Osulf epc̃ non rennui.
✠ Ego Alfuuold epc̃ subscripsi.
✠ Ego Daniel epc̃ conclusi.

After these follow the signatures of four dukes and eight thanes[c].

This charter shortly after passed into the possession of the abbey of St. Mary, together with the property to which it gave a title; "hanc itaque terram sanctus pater Æthelwoldus concedente rege ab eodem comite adquisivit cum carta sibi a rege data et sic terra ista ad ecclesiam istam pervenit[d]."

Æthelwold here mentioned, under whose auspices the monastery of St. Mary was rebuilt after its destruction by the Danes, was made abbot of Abingdon, A.D. 954, and translated thence to the see of Winchester, A.D. 963, by King Eadgar[e].

A.D. 1065. A dispute arose about a mill on the confines of Milton

[c] Cot. MS. Tib. b. vi. f. 50. The titles in this transcript of the reign of Richard I. are "dux" and "minister." The Saxon boundaries are also given, Claud. c. ix., a transcript of the reign of Henry II.

[d] Cot. MS. Claud. c. ix. f. 112.

[e] Dugd. Mon. N. E., vol. i. p. 506.

and Cudesdon, probably in the same place as that which is still worked by the stream of the Thame which is there the boundary between the two parishes. The men of the bishop of Lincoln, to whom Milton belonged, wished to break down the sluice, an attempt which was resisted by the servants of the abbot of Abingdon. The charge of the bishopric of Lincoln had upon a recent vacancy[f] been placed in the hands of Peter, a chaplain of the king, and sometime bishop of Chester, who came to the mill with many armed attendants and was confronted by the abbot Ealdred[g], who brought with him a devout company of laymen and monks, together with the reliques of St. Vincent the martyr. The conference ended in an acknowledgment of the abbot's right, which was probably made clear by the production of King Edwy's charter and other indisputable vouchers, although in the account the withdrawal of the adverse claim is ascribed to the terror inspired by miraculous appearances[h].

A.D. 1080. The following is the return in the Domesday Survey. "Land of St. Mary of Abingdon. The abbey holds Codesdone, there are eighteen hides there. There is land to eighteen ploughs. Of these there are four hides in the demesne, and therein four ploughs and eight bondmen; and twenty-four villanes, with twelve bordars, have eighteen ploughs. A mill there and two fisheries pay twelve shillings. There are sixty acres of meadow. Wood eight quarentens long and half a mile broad. It was worth nine pounds, now twelve pounds[i]."

A.D. 1117. 17 Hen. I. In this year took place the decease of the abbot Faricius; the following extract would therefore seem to prove that Cudesdon must have had a church even before that which was built about A.D. 1180. "Hec sunt que dominus Faricius ecclesie contulit, ecclesiam silicet Sancti Martini de Oxenford, et ecclesiam de Mercham, ecclesiam de Offentuna, ecclesiam de Witteham, ecclesiam de Cudesduna, ecclesiam de Niweham[j]."

A.D. 1146. 11 Stephen. Pope Eugenius the Third, in a privilege granted to Ingulf the abbot, and his convent, takes the monastery of St. Mary of Abingdon under the protection of the Blessed Peter and himself, decreeing that all their possessions should remain to them and their successors, expressly mentioning "Cuthesdonam[k]." The same pope

[f] Bishop Ulf or Wulfin is said to have died A.D. 1067, having been previously banished.

[g] Ealdred, who was chosen abbot of Abingdon, A.D. 1065, appears to have submitted early to King William the Conqueror. In 1071 however he was sent a prisoner to the castle of Walingford, was deposed, and afterwards committed to the custody of Walcheline, bishop of Winchester, with whom he passed the remainder of his days.—Dugd. Mon. N. E., vol. i. p. 507.

[h] Cf. Cot. MS. Tib. b. vi. f. 119.

[i] Bawdwen's Translation.

[j] Tib. b. vi. f. 157.

[k] Dugdale's Monasticon.

in another like document confirms to the Abbey the Church of Cudesdon[l].

A.D. 1237. 21 Hen. III. Institutio vicariæ de Cudesdon :—Omnibus etc. Noverit universitas vestra nos auctoritate Gregorii papæ 9. Abbatem et conventum de Abendon in ecclesia de Cuddesdon canonice rectores instituisse, ipsosque in corporalem possessionem ipsius ecclesiæ induci fecisse, salva vicaria per dilectum filium magistrum R. de Weseham Archid. Oxon. in eadem taxata. Dat. 18. cal. Jan. pont. tertio. Taxatio vicariæ sequitur. Rot. Rob. Grostête. Anno. 3[m].

1249. Thomas de Hangrafe, deacon, was presented by the Abbot and Convent of Abingdon to the vicarage. Rob. Grostête 13[n].

1251. John de Gnatteshall, capellan, by the same. Rob. Grostête 17[n].

In the reign of Henry the Third, the Templars of "Cofle[o]" held of the Abbot of Abingdon two hides of land in Denton, and one in Wateley. Mathus de Wateley tenet in eadem dimidium feodum militis de Abbate de Abendon et ipse de Rege scilicet de Warda de Wyndelesore[p].

A.D. 1272. In the Hundred Rolls of the beginning of the reign of Edward the First many particulars respecting the property in this place are preserved, of which the most important appear to be that the manor belonged to the Abbot of Abingdon, together with the patronage and impropriation of the Church, and that the part of the parish still called Chippinghurst farm was held of the Prior of Nugyun.

"Dicunt jurati quod manerium de Codesdone tenetur in capite de domino rege et est de baronia Abendonie pro qua dominus Abbas de Abendon respondet domino regi de tota baronia cujus membrum Codesdone est.... Idem Abbas debet sectam hundredo de Bulendon' per attornatum suum per litteras suas patentes singulis annis de novo presentatum et hoc per cartam domine Philippe Comitisse Warr' concessum et confirmatum—Item dominus Abbas est patronus ecclesie de Codesdon, et Abbas et Conventus tenent ecclesiam in proprios usus per concessionem et confirmacionem sedis Apostolice. Item habet (sc. Abbas) duo molendina aquatica de quibus unum currit per cursum rivuli qui dicitur Cumbe Broke et aliud molendinum currit per aquam que vocatur Thame cum piscaria per eandem aquam sicut per metas et per bundas antiquitus constitutas[q] cum uno gurgite qui vocatur Cliffware.—

"Habent etiam unam gravam de corulo que vocatur Cumbegrave—que est extra metas foreste. Et unum boscum qui vocatur Sawe et est in regardo foreste de Sottor . . Et unum clausum quod vocatur La Vente

[l] Tib. B. vi. f. 167.

[m] Bp. Kennett, Par. Ant., vol. ii. p. 336.

[n] Lincoln Registers.

[o] Now called Temple Cowley.

[p] Testa de Nevill, p. 102. Feoda Abbatis de Abindon, p. 105. Hundredum de Bulinden.

[q] E. g. the Saxon boundaries, Cot. MS. Tib. B. vi. f. 50, and Claud. C. ix. f. 196.

quod continet in se xxiii acr: ex licencia domini Regis Henrici filii Regis Johannis. Dicunt jurati quod Deutone est hamelettum de Codesdone—Hamelettum quod vacatur Watele."

Rogerus Vicarius de Codesdon, de predicto Thoma tenet dimidiam acram terre et reddit per annum obolum pro omni servicio eidem Thome. Johannes de Chibenhurst tenet villam de Chibenhurst ad feodi firmam de Priore de Nugun reddendo inde per annum lx^{s} pro omni servicio—debet sectam hundredo de Bolendon.

A.D. 1291. 19 Edward I. Tax. Ec. P. Nich.

P. 30. Ecclesia de Cuddesdon', Abbatis de Abbyndon	26	13	4
P. 40. Vicaria de Codesdon. . . .	5	6	8
P. 44. Decanatus de Codesdon:—Abbas de Abbingdon habet in Codesdon in terris et redditibus . .	9	19	8
Idem habet ibidem in fructu gregis et animalium .	1	4	6
Prior de Nugyun habet in Chibenhurst et in Baldindon in redd'	6	0	0

A.D. 1316. 9 Edward II. At this date Quodesdon, Denton and Whatele are reported as owned by the Abbot of Abyngdon; and Chibenhurst, by "Domina Benedicta de Chibenhurst[r]."

A.D. 1523. Richard Stok, B.D., was presented by the Abbot and Convent to the Vicarage[s].

A.D. 1341. 14 Edward III. Decanatus de Cotesdon':—Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus portionibus suis taxatur ad xxvi^{li} xiii^{s} iiij^{d} &c.[t]

A.D. 1539. Abstract of Roll, 30 Henry VIII. Augmentation Office[u].

Monasterium de Abingdon.

Cuddesdon.—Redd' lib. et cust. xiv^{li} v^{s}. Redd' in Denton x^{li} ix^{s} viii^{d}. Redd' in Whateley ix^{li} xiv^{s}. Firma Molendini in Cuddesdon v^{li}. Firma vocata la Vente cum decimis iv^{li} vi^{s} viii^{d}. Firma Scitus manerii de Cuddesdon xxix^{li} xiii^{s} iv^{d}. Firma X^{me} in Whateley vi^{li} vi^{s} viii^{d}. Firma X^{me} in Halton in Cuddesdon vi^{s} viii^{d}.

A.D. 1542. 33 Hen. VIII. Soon after the dissolution of the religious houses, Robert King, the last Abbot of Oseney, was appointed to the Bishopric of Oxford, with charge over a district which, till that time, had formed part of the diocese of Lincoln[v]. Of the possessions in Cudesdon that had belonged to the Abbey of St. Mary of Abingdon, only a small portion appears to have been re-applied to ecclesiastical purposes, namely the impropriate parsonage. It is probable that at this time the manor and most of the lands passed into the family of Gardiner,

[r] Nomina Villarum, Parl. Writs, vol. ii. div. 3. f. 353.

[s] Lincoln Registers.

[t] Inquisitio Nonarum, p. 133.

[u] Monasticon Anglicanum. N. E. vol. i. p. 529.

[v] See Account of Dorchester Church, Oxon. p. 55—73.

a name which frequently occurs in connection with Cudesdon as early as the reign of Edward the First[w]. Anthony à Wood mentions that Sir Thomas Gardiner during the great rebellion burnt his own house, on the south side of the Church, lest the "Parliamenters" should make a garrison of it; at the same time the Bishop's Palace, on the north side of the Church, was burnt by Col. Legg for a similar reason[x]. From the descendants of Sir Thomas Gardiner the manor and most of the lands of Cudesdon have recently passed by purchase to the Right Honourable the Earl of Macclesfield. The land called la Vente, in the Hundred Rolls, was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth held by Sir Christopher Brome[y] of Holton, to whose property it became permanently annexed.

The history of the Episcopal Palace at Cudesdon cannot be better related than in the following biographical notice of Doctor Bancroft, the seventh Bishop of Oxford.

"John Bancroft was born in a little village called Astell or Estwell, lying between Witney and Burford in Oxfordshire, was admitted a student of Christ Church in 1592, aged 18 years or more, took the degrees in Arts, holy Orders, and became a preacher for some years in and near Oxon. In 1609, he being newly admitted to proceed in Divinity, was by the endeavours of his uncle Dr. Ric. Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, elected master of University College, where he continued above twenty years: in which time he was at great pains and expense to recover and settle the ancient lands belonging to that foundation. In 1632 he was, upon the translation of Dr. Corbet to Norwych, nominated Bishop of Oxford; whereupon being elected by the Dean and Chapter in April the same year, he had the temporalities of that see given to him on the 6th of June following, being about that time consecrated. In 1640, when the long Parliament began, and proceeded with great vigour against the Bishops, he was possessed with so much fear (having always been an enemy to the Puritans) that, without little or no sickness, he surrendered up his last breath in his lodging at Westminster, afterwards his body was carried to Cudsden, in the diocese of Oxon, and was buried near to and under the south wall of the Chancel of the Church there, on the twelfth day of Febr. in 1640, leaving then behind him the character among the Puritans or Presbyterians then dominant, of 'a corrupt unpreaching Popish Prelate.' The reader is now to know that before this man's time, the Bishops of Oxford had no house left belonging to their Episcopal See, either in city or country, but dwelt at their parsonage houses which they held in commendam, though Dr. Jno. Bridges, who had no commendam in his diocese, lived for the most part in hired houses in the city. For as I have before told

[w] Hundred Rolls.

[x] Wood's MS., Ash. Mus. B. 15.

[y] Proceedings in Chancery, Q. Eliz., vol. i. p. 270.

you in Dr. Rob. Kynge[z], tho. at the foundation of the Bishoprick of Oxford, in the Abbey of Osney, the king appointed Gloucester Coll. for the Bishop's pallace, yet when that foundation was inspected by K. Ed. VI., & a recital thereupon made of the foundation thereof done by his father, that place was left out of the charter, as being designed then for another use. So that from that time till this man (Dr. Bancroft) came to be Bishop, there being no settled house or pallace for him or his successors, he did resolve by the persuasions of Dr. Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury to build one; wherefore in the first place, the impropriate Parsonage of Cudsden beforementioned, five miles distant from Oxon, which belonged to the Bishop in right of his See, he let the lease thereof run out without any more renewing, that in the end it might be an improvement to the slender Bishoprick. The vicarage also of his own donation falling void in the mean time, he procured himself to be legally instituted and inducted thereunto. All which being done, he through the power and favour of Dr. Laud beforementioned, obtained an annexation of it to the See Episcopal, (the design of bringing in the appropriation going forward still,) and soon after began, with the help of a great deal of timber from the forest of Shotover, given by his majesty, to build a fair pallace; which with a chapel in it, being completely finished an. 1635 was then out of curiosity visited by the said Dr. Laud; which he remits into his diary thus, 'Sept. 2, an. 1635, I was in attendance with the King at Woodstock, and went from thence to Cudsden, to see the house which Dr. Jo. Bancroft then Lord Bishop of Oxford had there built to be a house for the Bishops of that See for ever; he having built that house at my persuasion.' But this house or pallace (which cost three thousand five hundred pounds) proved almost as short-lived as the founder, being burned down by Col. Will. Legg, during the short time that he was governor of the garrison of Oxford in the latter end of 1644, for fear it might be made a garrison by the Parliament forces, though with as much reason and more piety (as Dr. Heylin[a] observes) he might have garrisoned it for the King and preserved the house. Being thus ruined, it laid so till Dr. John Fell became Bishop of Oxford, and then with monies out of his own purse, and the help of timber which one of his predecessors Dr. Will. Paul, had laid in in his life time for that purpose, did rebuild it upon the old foundation with a chapel in it as before. The outside of which being finished in 1679, the inside followed soon after[b]."

J. B.

[z] Robert King, the last Abbot of Oseney and first Bishop of Oxford, built a house near the Cathedral, which he probably intended as an Episcopal Palace for the see of Oxford, some small portions of which now remain. See Ingram's Memorials of Oxford, vol. iii., St. Aldate's Parish, pp. 11, 12.

[a] Cyprianus Anglicus, lib. iii.

[b] Wood's Athenæ Oxon, vol. i. p. 632.

WHEATLEY.

PATRON.
THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.
A CHAPELRY TO CUDDESDEN.

St. Mary.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN, HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.

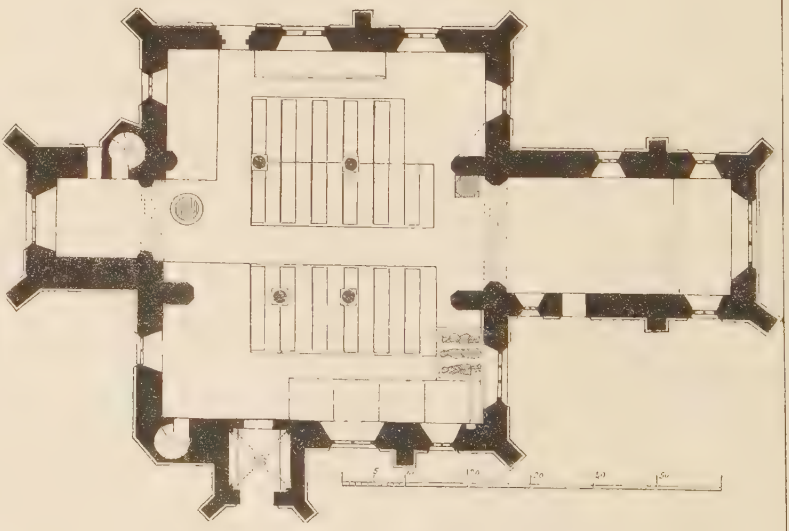
In the populous hamlet of Wheatley is a large chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, and built at the close of the last century, with diminutive chancel, great round-headed windows, and hipped roof of slate; in fact, having nothing but a tower to distinguish it in outward appearance from a meeting-house.

Wheatley has been formed into a separate parish, and is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the bishop of Oxford. There are a few old houses in the village, one of which, called the manor-house, bears the date 1601. Another at the east end of the village has a doorway with good mouldings of the fifteenth century, the windows in the gable ends, and the chimneys are of the same period. Another farm house, opposite to the one last mentioned, and a large barn with good buttresses, appear to have been also built in the fifteenth century.

On a hill, called Castle hill, about a mile eastward of Wheatley, near the footpath to Cuddesden, on a gentle slope toward the river Thame, facing the south-east, are the remains of a Roman villa, consisting of a hypocaust and bath, and some other fragments. A quantity of broken tiles and Roman pottery of Samian ware and the coarser kinds, were dug up in clearing out these remains [a].

[a] For a further account of these see Archæological Journal, vol. ii.

SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE CHURCH.



GROUND-PLAN.

GREAT MILTON.

PATRON.
THE BISHOP OF
OXFORD.

St. Matthew.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF THAME.

This Church[a], the general features of which are Decorated, but succeeding an earlier structure, is one of the most interesting in the Deanery, and would if carefully restored, afford as valuable an example of the fourteenth century work as its neighbour at Great Haseley does of the thirteenth century. The plan is complete having the Chancel, nave, north and south aisles, south porch with parvise over, and a well proportioned tower at the west end of the nave, remaining perfect.

The east window of the Chancel is Decorated, cusped and under a depressed head, the inside splays are moulded on the edges, and low down on both sides are notches deeply cut which were probably to support the framework of a reredos or a tryptych. On the north side are two Decorated windows of two lights each, with cusped quatrefoils in the heads, and the splays moulded as the east window. On the south side, the first window is Decorated, of two lights, cinque-foiled, with a spherical six-foiled triangle in the head, the arch recessed and

East Window of Chancel.

[a] In drawing up the architectural account of this Church much assistance has been derived from notes taken by Beckford Bevan, Esq., of Ch. Ch. Oxford, and Joseph Clarke, Esq., architect, both members of the Society.

chamfered on the edge: the second window is the same as on the north. Over these four windows are roll hoodmoulds all mutilated at the points, as if for a flat ceiling or other addition of later times. The remaining window on the south is Early English, having the sides plainly splayed, and over it the common chamfered drop-arch; this window contains a mutilated medallion of the original painted glass, representing under an arcade, or canopy, the figure of a king crowned, with his right hand raised authoritatively; under the other compartment of the arcade is the figure of a female also crowned, but kneeling, as if in the act of supplicating: the inner side of the splay is rebated, evidently for a shutter, the hooks remaining. The sedilia and piscina are concealed behind the modern plastering of the Chancel, and appear much defaced: the parish chest of late date is within the Altar rails, but does not contain any documents of interest relating to the parish. Portions of the old side seats remain fixed, those on the north side are probably as early as the reign of Henry VIII., whilst those on the south side are much later, and very rude in construction, though affording an example of the old method of arrangement in our Chancels retained even to a period some time after the Reformation.

The roof over the Chancel is as late as the reign of Mary or Elizabeth; some character is preserved in the short king-posts and tie-beams resting on plian chamfered corbels.

The Chancel-arch belongs to the earlier fabric, the mouldings are Early English, (see p. 311,) dying into the piers and on to angularly cut drop corbels, which are plain, as if left to be afterwards carved; there is a hoodmould on both sides. A rood-screen, put up since the Reformation, and formed of turned ballusters, divides the Chancel from the nave. Above the Chancel-arch is a low three-light cusped Perpendicular window, most likely inserted when the present roof of the nave was put on, which appears to have been A.D. 1592, from an inscription on one of the tie-beams; the roof is well wrought and fairly moulded for the period of its construction.

The aisles are divided from the nave by irregular arches on circular Early English piers, the caps of which are richly moulded. The arch mouldings are similar to those of the Chancel-arch, with one additional member. (See p. 311.) Some of the bases of the piers are circular and some square with connecting mouldings. The westernmost pier and arch on the south side have the same Early English character as the others, but are unfinished in their mouldings, a circumstance which agrees very well with the theory that our old church builders worked from east to west, and would seem to indicate that at this stage of the earlier building some difficulties were incurred from the want of funds or other causes; on the north side the mouldings above the westernmost pier have been left unfinished in a similar manner. Above the nave-arches is a Decorated clerestory having three circular windows on each side, quatrefoiled within the outer mouldings.

Interior. CLERESTORY WINDOW. Exterior.

A Perpendicular window, of two lights, cinquefoiled, has been inserted at the east end on the south side, and at the south-west end is a square hole cut in the wall and glazed to light the singers' gallery.

North Aisle.—In the north wall are two Decorated windows of three lights with quatrefoils in the heads. In the east wall is a similar window, but much more beautiful in design, and the mouldings exceedingly well cut and grouped. In this window is some painted glass of the Decorated period removed from one of the windows in the north wall. In the quatrefoil to the right is represented a male figure barely clad with a flowing beard, walking with a long staff in his left hand and raising the right in an imploring attitude. In the other quatrefoil are two angels discoursing over a dead body inclosed in a cerecloth as if watching it, or preparing to carry it away. It is probable that the two pieces refer to the story of Lazarus, the first representing him in his lifetime as asking alms, the second as being after death carried by the Angels into Abraham's bosom[b].

The west window has two lights, and the mouldings are similar to those of the north window of this aisle.

South Aisle.—The east window is a good specimen of the flowing tracery of the fourteenth century, so nearly resembling the Flamboyant which succeeded this period on the continent, being coeval with our Perpendicular work. It is of four lights, with the superior mouldings continuing through the central

East Window of South Aisle. (Exterior.)

[b] St. Luke xvi. 20—22. The English translation "was laid" by no means implies that Lazarus was too helpless to walk from place to place imploring alms. The Greek ἐβέβλητο may reasonably be considered to be the passive used in a middle sense; and in the Vulgate, which was the version best known to the artist of the day, it is rendered "jacebat."

mullion, and it has a drop arch over it with moulded hood and jambs; two corbel heads remain under the hoodmould but much mutilated. In the south wall are two windows of three lights, one having trefoiled, and the other quatrefoiled, or flowing tracery; the splays moulded and hoodmoulds over. The western window corresponds with the one in the north aisle; a roll and fillet string-course formerly continued round both aisles under the windows, but it is much injured in places; below this are some remains of the low stone seat attached to the walls. Both aisles appear to have had altars, and retain some traces of the parcloses.

Window in the South Aisle (Exterior.)

String-course under the Windows.

In the south aisle is a large Piscina partly blocked up and destroyed, and near it, forming part of the floor, is an original altar stone, with the five crosses still visible. The length is 7 ft. 10 in., and the breadth 2 ft. 11 in. Over the Chancel-arch are the commandments, probably as originally written according

Mullions of Windows in South Aisle

to the injunction of Queen Elizabeth. The entrance to the roodloft is at the south-east of the north aisle, the staircase being concealed by a wall across the corner. A small pointed

doorway in the south aisle leads to the parvise. The room itself is in a sad state of decay, but the small windows lighting it are tolerably perfect. A portion of the original pewing remains, and would serve as a good model for the restoration of the whole.

The Font is quite plain, circular in form, but without any marks to fix the date.

The tower-arch is Decorated, but now closed up.

There are several encaustic tiles in different parts of the Church, and among them one near the roodscreen seems to have upon it the double-tailed lion rampant, of Burghersh, within the wheel (rota) of Roet (p. 313), similar to those at Ewelme.

Flat Grave-stone in the Nave.

The oldest monument now visible in the Church is the one described and engraved by Gough[c], which is a slab of Purbeck marble, at the east end of the nave, having upon it a cross fleurée, and at the foot of this the Lamb, with a nimbus, supporting it, and looking upwards. This remarkable slab, which probably marks the burial-place of an ecclesiastic, is 6 ft. 9 in. long, by 1 ft. 11 in., decreasing to 1 ft. at the eastern extremity. The next monument is thus mentioned by Anthony à Wood, A.D. 1657.—In the body of the Church at the south-east end is a little marble lying on the ground with the pictures of four children, engraven on a brass plate, with this[d]:—

Of yo charite pray for the soules of Willm Eggerley John Eggerley Willm Eggerley & Elizabeth Eggerley the chyldren of Robt Eggerley and Kateryn his wyfe.

Of this monument, two only of the effigies, namely, John and Elizabeth, are now to be seen with the inscription, and four shields of arms[e] fastened against the wall in the north-east

[c] Sepulchral Monuments. [d] Wood's MS. E.I. Ashm. Mus. [e] See p. 313.

corner of the south aisle. Robert Edgerly, the father of these children, was A.D. 1546, the "farmer" or lessee of the prebend of Milton Manor[f]. We now come to the *superb* monument which occupies nearly the whole east end of the south aisle. It is a cumbrous load of marble, erected A.D. 1618, by Sir Michael D'ormer, for himself and wife Dorothea, and his father Ambrose, who died A.D. 1566. A canopy on Corinthian pilasters covers the three effigies, in the dress of the period, and there are two long Latin inscriptions, one on the north side in honour of the father Ambrose D'ormer, Esq., who married Jane, daughter of James Burye, Esq., of Hampton Poyle, and on the north side another in honour of Sir Michael, who served under Robert earl of Leicester, and Sir Francis Vere, in the Low Countries. These services are also commemorated by a basso relievo in front of the tomb, representing a fortress and encampment, and Sir Michael himself in the middle of the piece receiving orders from his General. The two inscriptions amount to three hundred and forty-six words, without a single expression from which it could be inferred whether the deceased persons were Pagans or Christians. Every part of the monument abounds with heraldic and mythological devices.

Another monument against the north wall in the Chancel to the memory of the wife of Dr. Henry Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalene Hall, in Oxford, who departed this life A.D. 1654, affords a singular contrast to that of the D'ormers, in the tone of the inscription, but is scarcely less deficient in brevity and humility. The most unbounded religious eulogy is there summed up in this distich:

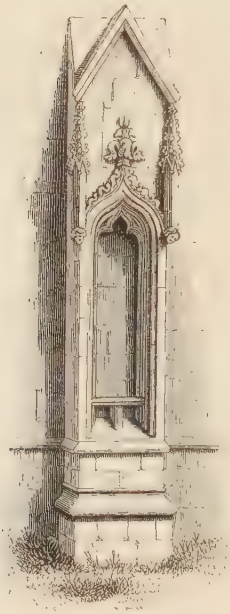
> "Here lie mother and babe both without sins,
> Next birth will make her and her infant twins[g]."

The walls of the Decorated part of the Church are formed of very small pieces of stone: the buttresses generally are much ornamented; that on the exterior of the parvise stair-turret con-

[f] Valor Eccl. See also p. 316.

[g] For the above inscriptions at length, and an account of the later monuments, see Account of Great Milton by Rev. T. Ellis, Vicar. Oxford, Baxter, 1819.

tains a niche with a crocketed canopy, and a good finial termination; two buttresses of the south aisle have similar niches. The parapet of the nave and aisles are perfect, or nearly so, with the gurgoyles remaining on the parvise and south aisle, which are Decorated work. The buttresses of the north aisle are in good condition, of two sets off; the Chancel buttresses are also of two sets off. A bold base-moulding runs round the aisles, but is not continued through the Chancel.



Buttress of South Aisle

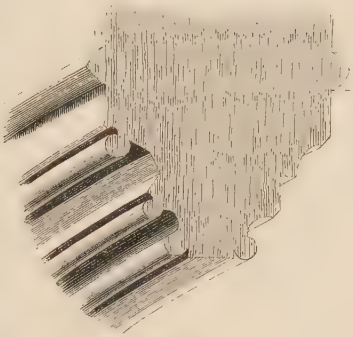
Buttress of Chancel

The priest's door is Early English, with chamfered edges to the jambs. The parapet of the Chancel is low and most likely placed on with the later roof. On the east gable of the nave are the mutilated remains of the sanctus bell-cot. In the north wall is a good Early English doorway, with a very rich suit of mould-

The North Doorway

MOULDINGS

Arch of the Nave.



Chancel Arch.

Capital and Base of a Pillar in the Nave.

Arch of the North Doorway

Pinnacle and Stringing Table of the South Aisle

Jamb of the North Doorway

ings, but it has been sadly mutilated, and the greater part of the ornament defaced. The tower is Perpendicular, square, and solid, rising in three stages, with a stair-turret on the north side. It contains eight bells, all modern. The inscriptions are—

1. "I as treble begin." 2 and 4. "Ellis and Henry Knight of Reading made mee, 1673." 3. "I as third ring, 1631." 5. "Prosperity to this parish, J. R. 1771." 6. "Fear God, Honour the King, 1771." 7. "Thomas Rudall, Gloucester, Founder, 1771." 8. (Great bell) "I to Church the liveing call, and to the grave do summons." 9. (Little bell.) "1825," and names of C.W.

ARMS IN MILTON CHURCH.

The arms which were formerly in the windows of this Church no longer exist except in the records of the herald and the antiquary. In the note-book[h] of Richard Lee, Portcullis Pursuivant, who visited this Church A.D. 1574, are traced four coats, which, about eighty years later, are thus blazoned by Anthony à Wood[i].

I. Barry neb. Argent and Gules, a bend Azure.

II. Argent, four barrulets Gules; on a canton of the second, a mullet (six points) of the first.

III. Gules, on a cheveron Argent, three lioncels rampant Azure[k].

IV. Barry neb. Argent and Gules.

Sir William Wace.

The first of these is the coat of Sir Roger D'Amory[l], lord of Blechingdon and Woodpery, Oxon, who, upon his marriage with Elizabeth, third daughter of Gilbert de Clare, surnamed the Red, Earl of Gloucester, had a grant from her uncle, King Edward II., A.D. 1319, of the manor of Holton, Oxon[m].

The second is the coat of William Wace[n], whose daughter Helen was married to Richard de Louches, and shared with him the privilege of an altar-tomb in Milton Church. (See pp. 314, 315, 317.)

The fourth is in the Roll of Ed. II. attributed to Sir Richard D'Amory, Oxon, nephew to Sir Roger, who was lord of Bucknell, and adhered to the royal party, while his uncle combined with the barons against the two Despensers. He departed this life A.D. 1330[o].

[h] Wood's MS. D. 14. Ash. Mus.

[i] Ibid., E. I.

[k] Lee mentions that the lions were guttée Or.

[l] Glover's Ordinary, and the quarterings of Power of Blechingdon, Visitat. of Oxon. Q. Coll. MS. See also Roll of Edward II. by Sir N. H. Nicolas, where, however, the bend is blazoned Sable.

[m] Account of Dorchester Abbey Church, p. 121, Appendix.

[n] See Roll, Ed. II., by Sir N. H. Nicolas.

[o] Bp. Kennett sub anno. That the bearing Barr. neb. of Lee and à Wood is the same as Wavy ("Oundée") of earlier

Sir Richard Camoys.

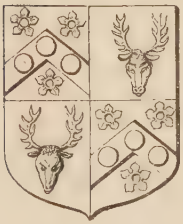
On a corbel at the north-east of the south aisle is sculptured a coat of arms not noticed by Lee or à Wood, and without any traces of colour; but it certainly is that of Sir Richard Camoys, lord of Great Milton, &c., A.D. 1416 (see p. 315), to which date the shape of the shield exactly corresponds. The blazon is Or, on a chief Gules, three plates[p]. These arms are now quartered by the Right Honourable Thomas Stonor, of Stonor, Baron Camoys, who descends from Margaret, Sir Richard's eldest daughter married to Ralph Radmylde, Esq., of Sussex[q]. The encaustic tile near the rood-screen (p. 308) is connected with Thomas Chaucer, Esq., of Ewelme, one of the feoffees of Sir Richard Camoys (p. 315): his mother was a Roet; his wife the daughter of Sir John Burghersh.

The four shields of the Edgerley monument, now much defaced, are—

I. Argent, on a cheveron between three cinquefoils Gules, as many bezants, Edgerley.

II. Edgerley: *quartering*, Gules, a buck's face cabossed Or.

III. Edgerley: *impaling*, Per pale, Gules and Sable, on a cheveron engrailed between three greyhounds' heads erased Argent, collared[r] and ringed at the back Gules, three hurts, Belson.



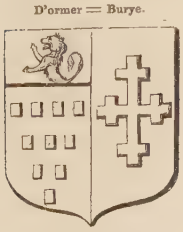
Edgerley = Belson.

This coat represents the match between Robert Edgerley, of Great Milton, and Catherine, daughter of Thomas Belson, of Aston Rowant, Oxon[s], in the reign of Henry VIII.

IV. Edgerley: *quartering*, Belson.

Of the profusion of arms on the D'ormer monument, the two shields which immediately relate to the effigies are—

D'ormer = Burye.



I. Azure, ten billets 4, 3, 2, 1 Or; on a chief of the second, a demi-lion rampant issuant Sable, D'ormer: *impaling*, Vert, a cross crosslet Or, Burye.

This coat represents the match between Ambrose D'ormer, Esq.,

D'ormer = Hawtree.

heralds is proved by the account given in Wood's MSS. E. I. and D. 14. of shield still remaining at Dorchester. See plates of arms, fig. 47, in account of Dorchester Church, Oxon.

[p] See Rolls of Hen. III., Ed. II., and Ed. III., by Sir N. H. Nicolas.

[q] See p. 316; also Burke's Peerage and Lodge's Genealogy.

[r] Wood says "collared Or."

[s] See Visitat. of Oxon, A.D. 1574, and the inscription, p. 308.

of Great Milton, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and Jane, one of the daughters and heirs of James Burye, Esq., of Hampton Poyle, Oxon[t].

II. D'ormer: *impaling*, Argent, four lions passant in bend between four cotises Sable crowned Or, Hawtree.

Sir Michael D'ormer, son of Ambrose D'ormer, Esq., married Dorothea, daughter of William Hawtree, Esq.[u]

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The parish of Milton includes the villages of Great and Little Milton, with the hamlets of Ascot and Chilworth.

A.D. 1087. 18 King William I. Milton is reported in the Domesday Survey as part of the lands of the Bishop of Lincoln.

A.D. 1272. 1 Edw. I. The Hundred Rolls of this reign contain several particulars respecting Milton, of which the following appear to be the most important:—Milton. Dominus Johannes de Clifford tenet feodos ij militum de domino Episcopo Lincolniensi in capite de manerio de Thame faciendo inde sectam hundredo et scutagium et habet in dominico iij carucatas terre cum j molendino. . . . . Liberi tenentes:—Item, Magister Oliverus prebendarius ecclesie tenet in villa de Milton tres carucatas terre de domino Episcopo Lincolniensi de manerio de Thame quas quidem iij carucatas terre Episcopus Lincolniensis nomine Alexander dedit ecclesie Lincolniensi in puram et perpetuam elemosinam nichil faciendo inde domino Regi neque Episcopo . . . . . Item Abbas Dorkecestrie tenet j virgatam terre per servicium scutagii et idem Abbas tenet XX acras terre in puram et perpetuam elemosinam.

1291. 19 Edw. I. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas is the following:

Decanatus de Cudesdon.

Ecclesia de Milton' Prebendalis - -	xl^{li}.	Magistri J. de Munemuwe.
Vicar ejusdem - - - - -	vj^{li}.	
Prebenda consistens in Laico feodo ibidem	xlvj^{li}. xiij^{s}. iv^{d}.	

A.D. 1300. 28 Edw. I. Willielmus Ingge tenet de eodem (sc. epo Linc.) tertiam partem ij feod' militum in Milton, fecit homagium apud parcum Stowe.

Ricardus de Louche tenet ij partes duorum feodorum militum, fecit homagium apud Dorcestriam in vigilia Sancti Jacobi anno regni regis Edwardi XXVIII.

John de Fendus tenet 1 feodum militis in Escote[x].

[t] Inscriptions on the D'ormer monument.

[u] Ibid.

[x] Leiger Book of the manors belonging to the Bishop of Lincoln, A.D. 1300. MS. in the archives of Queen's College.

Richard de Louches, here mentioned, is certified, A.D. 1316, as one of the lords of the townships of Milton, Baldon St. Lawrence, Baldon Toot, Baldon Marsh, and Little Baldon, all in the county of Oxford; and in the year 1321, 15 Edw. II., was one of the followers of Sir Roger d'Amory against the Despensers[y].

A.D. 1343. 15 Edw. III. Decanatus de Cotesdon :—Milton, Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus suis porcionibus taxatur ad xlvi^{li}. cujus nona predicta assed' ad xxx^{li}.

A.D. 1416. 4 Hen. V. By a deed dated at Great Milton, the Monday next before the Feast of St. John the Baptist, Sir Robert Ponynges, Sir William Lisle, Thomas Chaucer, Esq., William, Parson of the Church of Tratton, Sussex, Gilbert Machon, and John Warefield, as feoffees of Sir Richard Camoys, granted and demised to his relict Joan a manor called Ingescourte[z], in Great Milton, with all lands, tenements, &c. in Great and Little Milton, Great and Little Chelworth, the manors of Kinseye, Tithorp, with appurtenances, the manor of Chakenden, and advowson of the Church of Chakenden, the manor of Chiselhampton, with lands and tenements in Bensyngton, to hold during her life, with remainder to the right heirs of her late husband, Sir Richard Camoys. The deed mentions John, Ralph, and Hugh, as sons of the late Richard. The witnesses are Thomas de Stonore, Reginald Barentyn, John Cottesmore, William Bruly, William Baldyngdon[a].

[y] Parl. Writs by Sir F. Palgrave, vol. ii. div. 3. p. 1119.

[z] So called from William Inge, or Ingge, who did his homage A.D. 1300, and died seized of a third part of Milton A.D. 1322. See Parl. Writs, by Sir F. Palgrave, vol. i. p. 299, and Esc. 15 Edw. II.

[a] Bishop Kennett sub anno. Ex chartul. de Boarstall. Sir Richard Camoys, by a deed bearing date May 25th, in the same year, had enfeoffed Sir Robert Ponynges, and the others in the above, together with other possessions, in Ewelme, Tuffield, Nettilbold, Waceswoode, Mongehamwoode, Shephurstes londes. The following document of the reign of Henry VI. shews the descent of most of these possessions, and serves to illustrate the history of Milton and other neighbouring places in several important particulars.

" Linea Ricardi Camoys militis quomodo sit rectus heres Gilberti Wace Ch^{r}. Memorandum quod anno Domini millesimo CCLXIIIJ^{to} (Willielmus) Wace armiger et Elena uxor ejus fuerunt seisiti de omnibus terris vocatis Waceslondes in com. Oxon. Qui quidem (Willielmus) et Elena habuerunt exitum inter se. viz. Hugonem Willielmum Johannem Humfridum Thomam Johannem Isabellam Elenam, Radulfum et Thomam. Et predictus Willielmus filius predicti Willielmi supervixit. Et predicta Elena maritata fuit Ricardo Louches militi de Milton. Et predicti Hugo Johannes Humfridus Thomas Johannes Isabella Radulfus et Thomas obierunt sine heredibus de corporibus suis procreatis Et predictus Willielmus filius Willielmi Et Cecilia uxor ejus habuerunt exitum inter se viz. Gilbertum Wace militem Agnetam Matildam Sibillam et Margaretam. Et predicte Agn. Mat. Sib. et Marg. obierunt sine heredibus de corporibus procreatis et predictus Gilbertus supervixit. Et predictus Gilbertus et Nicholaa uxor ejus fuerunt seisiti de terris predictis et nullum habuerunt exitum et dictus Gilbertus supervixit predictam Nicholaam et obiit seisitus de

A.D. 1422. 5 Hen. VI. Sir William Dugdale mentions that the manor of Whateley, Oxon, also descended to the Camoys family from the Louches, (see note[a],) and that Hugh Camoys the son of Richard, at length succeeded to the manor of Great Milton, called "Camoys manor," but died soon after within age and without issue, leaving his inheritance to be divided between his two sisters, Margaret the wife of Ralph Redmilde, and Alianore the wife of Roger Lewknore. The said Ralph and Roger accordingly did homage for their respective shares, 5 Hen. VI.[b]

A.D. 1535. 26 Hen. VIII. The following is a brief abstract of the return in the Valor Ecclesiasticus.

Of the two prebends in Lincoln cathedral, derived out of Great Milton, that which was endowed with the appropriation of the church, being held by Thomas Baddell or Bedel, who is called the rector, amounted at that time to the clear yearly value xxxiij^{li}. xviij^{s}. vj^{d}. The other prebend, consisting of temporal possessions alone, viz. the manor-farm of Romeyns in Great Milton, called Romeyns Courte, with all lands in the aforesaid Milton called copyholds, was held by Dr. London, and upon his decease during the survey, by James Courtop. It was rented under a lease of sixty years granted Feb. 12th A.D. 1517 by Philip Morgan then prebendary, to Robert Edgerley, and amounted to the clear yearly value[c] xxiv^{li}. The receipts of John Fyscher, vicar, were xv^{li}.

terris predictis cujus propinquior heres est Ricardus Camoys miles filius Thome Camoys militis et Elisabeth uxoris ejus filie et heredis Willielmi Louches de Milton filii et heredis Johannis Louches de Milton filii et heredis predicti Ricardi Louches militis de Milton et predicte Elene filie predicti Willielmi Wace militis uxoris predicti Ricardi Louches." From the Boarstall chartulary, a transcript of the reign of Henry VI., kindly communicated by Sir Thomas Digby Aubrey, Bart.

Sir Gilbert Wace, above mentioned, departed this life A.D. 1408, and was buried at Dorchester. See Account of Dorchester Church, p. 133, 134.

[b] Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 768. Thomas Lord Camoys, the father of Sir Richard, deceased, A.D. 1421.

[c] By the above extract, as well that from the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, it appears that Great Milton has from very early times furnished two prebends to the cathedral of Lincoln. The following are the names of some of the earlier Prebendaries :—

Prebendaries of "Milton Church."

1. John de Monmouth	A.D. 1290
2. Gilbert Segrave, Bishop of London	1296
3. Galliard de Mota, Archdeacon of Oxford, and Precentor of Chichester	1312
4. Hugo Cardinalis, Sanctæ Mariæ in porticu	1365
5. Francis Cardinal de Sabina	1372
6. Walter Skirlow, Bishop of Bath and Wells	1396
7. Richard de Scroop, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry	1386
8. Andrew Barret	1389

A.D. 1542. John Leland the great antiquary, who was at this date rector of Haseley, thus records his visit to Great Milton.

"From Haseley to Miltoun village half a mile, at this place, as I heard say, was many yeres syns a Priorie of Monkes: a selle, as one told me to Abingdon.

The House of the Priorie was by likelihood, wher the Farmer's House is now, hard by the Chirch yard. For ther appere foundations of great buildinges.

Sum say that Monseir de Louches House was wher the Farmer's House is[d].

In the Chirch of Miltun is an Highe Tumbe of Fre Stone with the Image of a Knight and a Lady, with an Epitaphie in Frenche, declaring that Richard de Louches Chivalier and Helene his wife ly buried there[e].

The Voice ther goith that Louche had the Priorie Land gyven hym.

Louches Landes cam to Heires Generalls.

Of later Tymes Davers had this Lordship of one . . . . . Syr Regnald Bray boute it of Davers. The late Lord Bray sold it to Dormer Mair of London.

There is a prebend Land in Miltun longging to Lincoln. The Bishop of Lincoln is Patrone of the Chirch.

Prebendaries of "Milton Manor."

1.	Richard Hannibal	1330
2.	Manuel Flisco	1333
3.	William Norwich	1343
4.	Thomas Bembre	1344
5.	Hugh de St. Marshall	1345
6.	Hugo Cardinalis	1365
7.	Raymond Pelegrini	1375

For the names of later Prebendaries see Account of Great Milton, by the Rev. T. Ellis, whence the above are taken.

[d] The Benedictines of Abingdon had possessions at Milton, Berks, as early as the Conquest, but that they had a cell at Great Milton, Oxon, is a supposition which, in the Monasticon and in Stevens's Supplement, vol. i. p. 127, is made to rest solely on the above passage in Leland, and is not borne out by the Hundred Rolls or Valor Ecclesiasticus. It is much more probable that the foundations hard by the church-yard were those of "Monsier de Louche's House," and that the only Priorie of Monkes at Great Milton was connected with Lincoln Cathedral and the prebend "Milton Ecclesia," having their house on the site of the present rectorial farm, still called the "Monkery" or "Monk's Farm."

[e] This tomb did not exist in Anthony à Wood's time (1660), and was probably destroyed in the Great Rebellion, as Milton was a favourite residence of Thurloe, the secretary of Oliver Cromwell, and was frequently visited by the usurper himself. See Account of Great Milton, by the Rev. T. Ellis, Vicar, p. 22.

There joynith unto Great Miltun, Little Miltoun, and there is a Chappelle of Ease dedicate to S. James[f]."

No traces are now to be seen of the tomb of Richard de Louches and his Lady, to whom considerable interest is attached, as the persons of most rank and property residing at Milton during the time when the beautiful Church of St. Matthew was built. An altar-tomb with effigies at that early date, would warrant the supposition that they were considerable benefactors to the Church. By documents already quoted, it appears that this Richard de Louches did his homage A.D. 1300, that his wife Helene was the daughter of Sir William Wace, (of Ewelme,) and that the possessions of Louches, Inge, and Wace at length came to Sir Richard Camoys, who departed this life A.D. 1416, leaving a widow and three sons, the youngest of whom at length inherited, but dying soon after left the inheritance to be divided between his sisters Margaret and Alianore. This must nearly fill up the gap in Leland's account between Louches and Danvers, who sold the manor to Sir Reginald Bray. Sir Michael D'ormer who purchased it of the "late Lord Bray" was the son of Geoffrey D'ormer a woolstapler of Thame, Oxon, and was elected Lord Mayor of London in the year 1541. He was succeeded by his son Ambrose D'ormer, who died in the year 1566. Michael the eldest son of Ambrose, served under Robert Earl of Leicester and Sir Francis Vere in the low countries, received the honour of knighthood, and A.D. 1618, erected for himself, his wife, and his father, the monument in the south aisle of Milton Church. He was not however at the time of the erection of this monument, lord of the manors of Milton and its hamlets, having thirty years previously, at the beginning of his military career, sold them to Sir Michael Grene, by whom they were sold to the Lord Keeper Coventry. The manors of Great and Little Milton and Ascot, afterwards became the property of John Blackall, Esq., partly by virtue of family settlements and partly by purchase. They are now possessed by Walter Long, Esq.

John Milton the Poet is said to have descended from the proprietors of Milton, near Thame in Oxfordshire, one of whom forfeited his estate in the times of York and Lancaster[g]. The house which is reputed to have been occupied by the ancestors of the poet is still standing, with mullioned windows and pointed roofs, opposite to the village well. This house, with its original garden wall, and an outbuilding of similar character, affords an interesting specimen of domestic architecture, but cannot be assigned to a date much earlier than A.D. 1600.

In the fields on the opposite side of the road is the rectorial farm-house, which was completely modernised, and a subterraneous passage

[f] Lel. Itin., vol. ii. p. 10. [g] Fenton and Dr. Johnson, quoted by Rev. T. Ellis.

destroyed, at the time that Sir John Aubrey, Bart., of Dorton House, Bucks, was lessee, but the premises are still known by the name of Monks Farm. The old manor-farm to the north-west of the Church, still retains the name of Romeyns Court. By the operation of the late Act of Parliament, the two Prebends in Lincoln cathedral, still called Milton Church and Milton manor, to which these belonged, are now deprived of their revenues and patronage, the vicarage has been slightly augmented to its present value £223. per annum, and placed in the patronage of the Bishop of Oxford. J. B.

LITTLE MILTON.

PATRON.
P. C.
THE BISHOP OF
OXFORD.

St. James,
Apostle and Martyr.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF THAME.

The Chapel of Ease at Little Milton dedicated to St. James which was standing in Leland's time, after having been completely destroyed for about two hundred years, has happily been replaced by a Church of good design, consecrated by the Right Hon. Richard Bagot, Lord Bishop of Oxford, on the 4th of June, A.D. 1844, to which Little Milton with Ascot is now attached, as a separate district and a perpetual curacy, value £95, in the gift of the Rev. Thomas Ellis, vicar of Great Milton, for life, but afterwards to be in the patronage of the Bishop of Oxford.

Dr. Plot in his Natural History of Oxfordshire, has described a British coin of Prasutagus the husband of Boadicea which was dug up at Little Milton.

Among the notes of the Rev. Thomas Delafield, Vicar of Great Milton, A.D. 1737, are the following statements.

"Mr. Eustace of Little Milton, hath an orchard in Little Milton planted by his father, in all his writings called Abbot's close. . . . The Chappel yard at Little Milton, now called Chappel Heys, hath had even of late some human bones dug up there. And Mr. Paul Wildgoose, in the year 1748, in digging the foundation for a granary, lighted upon the bones of a human skeleton."

The Abbot's close, belonging to Mr. Eustace, was no doubt part of the lands of the abbot of Dorchester mentioned in the Hundred Rolls, and given to that abbey, A.D. 1272, by William le Sage and Roesia his wife[a]. The statement of Mr. Delafield with respect to the Chapel yard, appears sufficient to determine the ancient site of the House of God in this place, and is confirmed by the discovery in "Chapel Heys," the farm-yard nearly opposite to the present Church, of fragments of a font and piscina, now placed in the north wall of the new chancel. A cross formerly stood in the centre of the village, but has been taken down since A.D. 1825. In the hamlet of Ascot are some ruins of the D'ormer mansion, but every vestige of the neighbouring chapel has been ruthlessly destroyed, and its site is now only marked by a weather-beaten elm twenty-one feet in girth, which stood at the west end, and is still called the "Chapel Tree."

ASCOT CHAPEL, OXON.

We are indebted to the taste and skill of Charles Ellis, Esq., of Great Milton, for the above sketch of this interesting building, taken A.D. 1811, from which time it continued standing entire, with the exception of the roofs, till 1823, when it was pulled down, and the stones, including the foundations, were afterwards fetched away *as wanted*. It would appear that the chapel was built soon after A.D. 1200, and that several additions were made in the Decorated period. J. B.

[a] Fin. Oxon. 56 Hen III., quoted in Account of Dorchester Abbey Church, p. 139.

NEWINGTON.

PATRON.
ARCHBISHOP
OF
CANTERBURY.

St. Giles.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF EWELME.

The general character of this Church is Decorated, with some portions of other styles. It has a Chancel, nave, and north transept or chapel, with a tower and spire at the west end.

The Chancel.—The east window is Decorated, of three lights, with flowing tracery, the hood and jamb mouldings having much of the Perpendicular character: on the south side are two good Decorated windows of two lights, the tracery trefoiled and cusped: on the north side the easternmost window is Perpendicular, square-headed, of two lights; the western is an Early English lancet, with the original string beneath, but not con-

tinued. In the south wall of the Chancel is an arched recess, probably the tomb of the restorer of the Church in the fourteenth century; the arch is low, foliated and moulded, with open cusps. There is a plainly-cusped piscina, square-headed, of which the shelf and water-drain have been recently restored: the priest's door, on the north side, is pointed, with chamfered edges to the jambs.

The Chancel-arch appears to be of the fourteenth century; the mouldings are plain, and die on the surface of the side piers; it has no hoodmould over. The remains of a good Early Perpendicular rood-screen, repaired and beautified in King George the Third's time, having the royal arms at the top, divide the Chancel from the nave: the latter has, on the south side, one Decorated window of two lights; there are also, with one Perpendicular window of little character, two modern insertions.

The south door, within a modern porch, is Norman, but the jambs or sides have been completely destroyed, and the arch mouldings left as a hoodmould over, with two heads, of Edward the Third's time, supporting them, carved out of the capitals or upper parts of the old Norman work: they give a singular and displeasing appearance to the whole, but shew, perhaps, in the only way that could be adopted, the desire to preserve the upper part of the old door, when the lower was entirely destroyed or defaced. The remains of a Norman door are visible on the north side, but it is now stopped up.

South Door.

The side chapel or transept opens into the nave by a plain arch, recessed on both sides, and was added, apparently, in the fourteenth century: the windows are Decorated, and the whole has the general character of this date.

The Font, which is very large, is of the round form, quite plain, and apparently of the early part of the thirteenth century.

Font

All the roofs inside are ceiled, and there are no windows on the north side of the nave. There are a few scattered remains of painted glass. In the south windows of the Chancel are two small medallions of the fourteenth century. The Perpendicular window on the north side of the Chancel is nearly full of late glass, but the subjects are in much confusion; in the easternmost light between two other figures, nimbed and regally crowned, is a figure of our Saviour, shewing the five wounds, and wearing the crown of thorns, nimbed, and attended by Angels, one of whom supports a regal crown. On either side is a figure, likewise regally crowned, and nimbed. The dresses of our Saviour and the other figures are nearly similar, being tunics of blue with edged alb and offray. Below this group is a figure of an ecclesiastic kneeling on a chequered ground and praying, having on, the amice and scapulary; on a scroll issuing above his head, can be traced "Gloria Æterno Patri et Christo * * in perpetuum, Amen." In the other light is represented the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

Against the north wall of the Chancel is an alabaster monument, with busts of Walter Dunch and his wife Mary in shrouds, erected A.D. 1650; under these are the arms of Dunch, Sable, on a cheveron between three towers, triple-towered Argent, a crescent of the field: *impaling* Hungerford, Sable, two bars Argent, in chief three plates: above the monument is a wooden tablet, ornamented with arms and other devices. There is another monument against the east wall to Henry Dunch,

Esq., who died A.D. 1686. "In a chapel on the north side is a stone on the ground, whereon, in brass, are the pictures of two women, and under them this inscription—Hic jacet Alicia quondam uxor Willielmi Skyrmote, et Maria uxor Johannis Skyrmote filii dictorum Willielmi et Aliciæ quæ quidam Maria obiit duodecimo die mensis Julii Anno Domini MCCCCLXIII quorum animabus propitietur &c.[a]" This monument is not now visible, and is perhaps concealed by the floor of the pew.

The exterior of the Church is covered with roughcast, the work of some churchwarden, A.D. 1776, and some other churchwarden had previously, A.D. 1743, put up a sun-dial on the east gable; it consequently would have a very meagre appearance but for the stone spire, the only one in this part of the Deanery. The Chancel has only buttresses to the east wall; these are angular and low, with the string-course continued round them. The lower stage of the tower is Early English, with the upper part and spire Decorated. From some settlement of the foundations it hangs over considerably, and at the north-west corner a large Perpendicular buttress has been added, corresponding in some measure with the one at the south-west corner. The lower windows are lancet, but those in the bell-chamber are Decorated, of two lights. The spire, which is rather heavy, has a low parapet, and for security has been braced by irons, which have an ugly appearance on the outside. On the east side is a spire-light, which probably served for the sanctus bell, and now holds the small bell. Within the steeple are four bells, bearing the following inscriptions:—

1. "Sancta Maria ora pro nobis[b]."
2. "Oure hope is in the lorde. 1592. R * E."
3. "Henri Knight made this bell. 1608."
4. "Richard Peploe, William Wilmott, churchwardens. 1719. A.R."

JOSEPH CLARKE.

[a] Wood's MS. Ash. Mus. E. I.

[b] This bell is probably not earlier than the sixteenth century, about the same date as the glass in the north window of the Chancel.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 997 Elgive the Queen gave the two manors of Newington and Brightwell to the Church of Canterbury, free from all secular service, except the threefold necessity[c]. "Anno Dominicæ incarnationis Ego Elgiua Ymma regina concedo ecclesiæ Christi terram nomine Niwentune et Brutewell liberam ab omni seculari servitio, exceptis expeditione, pontis et arcis constructione. Ista terra in regione de Oxoneford. Ego quoque contuli eidem ecclesiæ Christi calicem cum patena aurea in quo sunt xiij marcæ de puro auro, et duo dorsalia de pallio et duas cappas de pallio cum tassellis auro paratis[d]."

A.D. 1080. 14 William I. The Archbishop of Canterbury holds Newtone. It was and is the property of the Church. Robert de Oilgi holds one hide and Roger one hide. In the time of King Edward it was worth xi^{li}. now xv^{li}.[e]

A.D. 1272. 1 Ed. I. In this reign the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity in Canterbury, held under the Archbishop, the manor of Nywenton, with the hamlets Brochampton, Brittewell, and Berewyk[f].

A.D. 1535. 26 Hen. VIII. The clear receipts of Christ Church, Canterbury, from the manor of Newenton, Oxon, were xxxiij*l.* ix*s.* vij*d.*[g]

The living of Newington is now a Rectory, with the chapel of Brightwell[h] annexed, in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury, value £360; population, by the last census, 471. It was formerly in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and in the deanery of Monks Risborough, Bucks, the manor of which place was given to the Church of Canterbury and Elfric, Archbishop, A.D. 995, by Escwin, Bishop of Dorchester[e].

[c] Bp. Kennett, vol. i. p. 61.

[d] Script. R. Twysden, p. 2222. See also Gervase Dorob. sub anno. Dugd. Mon. N. E. p. 83, and Wood's MS. E. I.

[e] Domesday Survey, p. 155.

[f] Hundred Rolls. The Cathedral at Canterbury was dedicated to St. Saviour by St. Augustine, to the Holy Trinity when restored by Archbishop Lanfranc, and afterwards it was called by its present name, Christ Church. Somner, p. 155—159.

[g] Val. Ecc., vol. i. p. 16.

[h] The chapel at Brightwell Prior is a little Early English building, with some remains of Norman work. It has recently been restored with some care, but unhappily without professional superintendance.

DRAYTON.

PATRON.
CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

St. Catherine.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF DORCHESTER.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	23	9	by	14	9
Nave	45	3	by	17	5
North Chapel . . .	17	4	by	13	10

A SMALL plain Church having a Chancel, nave, a chapel on the north side, and a wooden tower over the west gable. The Chancel is Decorated: the tracery of the east window, which is much mutilated, is of three lights, plain, and not cusped. On the south side the windows are square-headed, of two lights; on the north side is a window of one light, trefoiled and cusped, in which is a fragment of fifteenth century glass, representing a bishop with a staff in the left hand, and a large chain hanging from the right, which is raised as in the act of blessing; this is by village tradition reported to be St. Leonard[a].

The piscina on the south side with the drain remains perfect, and opposite to this are the traces of an aumbre, near which are two corbel-heads, probably of the fourteenth century, but defaced.

The Chancel-arch is quite plain. In the nave are the remains of Norman and Early English work. On the north side is a Norman door now stopped, and an early window with very

[a] St. Leonard or Lienard was a French nobleman who in the flower of his age took the religious habit at St. Mesmins in the territory of Orleans, and afterwards became a hermit in a forest four leagues from Limoges. This Saint was most remarkable for his charity, towards captives and prisoners: he departed this life A.D. 599.—ALBAN BUTLER. See also Catalogue of the emblems of Saints, Archæological Journal, vol. i. p. 58.

deeply splayed sill. The south doorway is Norman, quite plain; the door is later, with rounded shoulder inserted. The south windows are square-headed, Perpendicular, of two lights. The west window is Early English, of one light. The chapel on the north opens into the nave by two arches of unequal size, the chamfers dying into the wall, supported in the centre by a circular pier with moulded cap and base of the thirteenth century. It has one small Early English window, and a square-headed Perpendicular window of two lights in the north wall. There is also a corbel-head in this wall similar to those in the Chancel.

The roofs are all concealed by plaster ceilings.

The Font is Perpendicular, but appears to have been altered from its original form.

On the Chancel-arch are now the arms of King George II., which a few years back were placed beneath the arch, as was usual at the time of their being ordered. A few tiles remain, and a portion of the original open seats are perfect.

On the east gable of the nave is the base of a large sanctus bell-turret, against which is now a sun-dial. The present wooden tower is partly carried on the base of the original bell-turret, which must have been made for more than one bell.

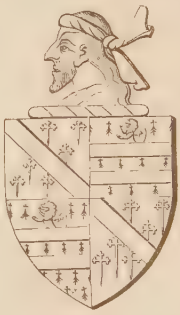
There are now three bells. The oldest (broken) bears the inscription Sancta Katerina ora pro nobis, with three stamps, one of which consists of a cross fleurée, with the words Ihu mercy lady help, distributed in the spaces.

The next, (cracked) ✠ Henri Knight made mee 1603.

The third bell, Our hope is in the Lord 1625.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

This place was formerly the seat of the Draytons, of which family Sir John Drayton, who departed this life A.D. 1411, and Richard Drayton, Esq., (1450,) were honoured with sepulture and brass effigies in the south aisle of Dorchester Abbey Church[b]. Others of the family had monuments in Drayton Church, as appears by two coats of arms, recorded as existing there A.D. 1574, in the note-book of R. Lee, the herald[c]. One of them, Azure, a bend between six cross crosslets fitcheé Or, Drayton: *quartering* Ermine, two bars, and in chief a demi-lion, Gules, Segrave: Crest a Saracen's head, as in the annexed engraving, is accompanied by the remark "John Drayton very ancient." The other coat consists of the same arms *impaled by*, Ermine, a fess Vairée Gules and Or; within a border engrailed, Sable; Crest the Saracen's head as before.



Drayton was one of the twelve Churches within the jurisdiction or "Peculiar" of Dorchester abbey, to which house the rectory was impropriate. The value of the rectory of Drayton, A.D. 1536, was xj^{li}, and was let to Richard Molyners at will[d]. It is now a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, population 327.

The village feast is held on the 24th of November, the eve of St. Catherine[e], virgin and martyr, new style.

[b] See Acct. of Dorchester Church, p. 131—3.

[c] Wood's MS. D. 14.

[d] Roll 29 Hen. VIII. Augmentation Office, and records in Exchequer quoted in Acct. of Dorchester Church, pp. 92, 164.

[e] The sign of the village inn at the edge of the river Thame is the Wheel of St. Catherine.

STADHAMPTON.

PATRON.
CHARLES PEERS, Esq.

St. John Baptist.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF DORCHESTER.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	19	6	by	12	6
Nave	41	0	by	19	6
North Aisle	41	0	by	8	0

The Church at Stadhampton is in a debased style, with the exception of the north aisle, which is Perpendicular. The tower is modern.

The Chancel is raised two steps; the east window of three lights exhibits the last ray of that feeling which pervaded the purer styles of Christian architecture, the outer or upper moulding of the head being cusped, whilst the inside form is elliptical. In the north wall is a window of two lights, not cusped at all, and on the south side one of two lights and another of one, similar to the east window, having a priest's door between them. The Chancel-arch is splayed on to plain caps, which appear to have been intended to be moulded, the ceiling is plastered; the nave is divided from the north aisle by three arches on piers with plainly moulded caps; the pulpit and reading desk bear the date "I. P. 1611." Some clumsy seats of "1636" remain in the nave, but placed much closer than originally. The roof is plastered, and tied in by beams. In the east wall of the north aisle is a Perpendicular window of two lights, and near this a bracket for a light, or an image. On the north are three low two-light windows, of the same date. The north door is now stopped.

In this aisle is a brass with the figures of a man and woman, and the following inscription, Pray for the sowllys of John Wyl-

mot ye younger and Alys his wyfe which John died xxi day of August the yere of owre Lord A. mcccccbiii°. There is also a brass plate in the Chancel to the memory of Dorothy Clarke, who died A.D. 1645.

The Font is plain, round, and has the staple holes remaining.

Over the Chancel-arch are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, carved on a wooden tablet, with the motto "Reginæ erunt nutrices tuæ." These however were not originally placed in this Church. There is also an old parish chest. The Church is much disfigured by a raised pew in the north aisle, and a singers' gallery at the west end of the nave. In the latter is a small but remarkably sweet toned organ made by a former curate. In the tower are four bells, each inscribed, "Henry Knight made mee 1621."

CHISELHAMPTON.

At the close of the last century when the old manor-house near the banks of the river Thame was pulled down in order to be built in a more eligible situation, the Church was also subjected to removal. The present building, consecrated Aug. 22, A.D. 1763, and dedicated to St. Catherine, has a bell-turret such as is usually placed on stables, large round-headed windows in the front toward the road, but none in the back or end walls, and is, notwithstanding its neat and trim appearance, a sad instance of departure from all the proprieties of Church architecture. The vane is pierced with the name of St. Catherine, the patron saint [a].

The only building of any antiquity now remaining in the village is the bridge over the Thame, with angular buttresses on the upper side to stem the force of the current below, and afford recesses above for the convenience of foot passengers.

[a] The former Church is said to have been dedicated to St. Mary, in Bacon's Liber Regis.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Stadhampton and Chiselhampton, which as early as the reign of Henry VIII. were vulgarly called Stodham[b] and Chisilton[c], and ecclesiastically united, were formerly within the jurisdiction or "Peculiar" of Dorchester Abbey, to which house the impropriate rectory belonged. At the Dissolution the Rectory and Parish Church of Stodham and Cheselhampton were let on a lease of thirty-one years, beginning from the 2nd of May, A.D. 1534, to Thomas Reade, at a yearly rent of xviij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} payable at the Feasts of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, Michael the Archangel, Nativity of our Lord, and Annunciation of the Blessed Mary[d].

From the following notice of Anthony à Wood, it would appear that Chiselhampton is an abbreviation of a still longer name.

"From Sir Robert Chevacheeshull of Hampton near to Dorchester, in com. Oxon. temp. Hen. III. and his ancestors that probably there lived, the said town of Hampton was called Chevacheeshull-Hampton and Chislington[e]." A.D. 1416. Sir Richard Camoys, son of Thomas, Lord Camoys, was lord of the manor of Chiselhampton[f]. In the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries this was a seat of a branch of the ancient family of D'Oyley[g].

The period when the property changed hands may be inferred from the following singular entry in the parish register.

"Mem. March 20. 174$_5$.

I enter this to acquaint my successors that the stipend for Chisleton and Stadham curacy was ever till this day ten shillings a Sunday and a Dinner for myself and care of my Horse. But now Sir John D'Oyley being obliged to sell the Chisleton Estate, in order to make more of it, has refused to give any more than twenty Pounds a year and obliges me to take care of myself and Horse. This is Sir John's own Declaration.

This I attest to be litterally true.

John Bilstone

Curate of Chisleton."

From the above-named Sir John D'Oyley, the manor, estate, and advowson of Chiselhampton, with lands in Stadhampton, passed to Charles Peers, Esq., who built a new Church at his own expense, and it is only to be regretted that so liberal an outlay should have taken place at a time when the proprieties of Church architecture were so little understood. By the munificence of this gentleman and his successors, the living has been augmented from £20 to £135, being now in the gift of Charles Peers, Esq., of Chiselhampton House, and styled the "Perpetual Curacy of Chiselhampton with Stadhampton."

[b] Records of Augmentation Office.

[c] Leland Itin., vol. ii. p. 10.

[d] Records in Exchequer 29 Hen. VIII., quoted in Acct. of Dorchester Abbey Church, p. 165.

[e] Wood's MS., E. I.

[f] Historical Notices of Great Milton.

[g] Visitat. of Oxon., A.D. 1574.

GARSINGTON CHURCH, OXON

[For the use of this woodcut the Society is indebted to the President of Trinity.]

GARSINGTON.

PATRON.
TRINITY COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

NORTH WEST VIEW OF GARSINGTON CHURCH.

This Church consists of nave, with side aisles, western tower, and Chancel: it seems to have been built late in the twelfth century, with a nave, north aisle, and western tower. The chancel and south aisle were added, or entirely rebuilt, in the fourteenth, the north aisle considerably altered, and the clear-story added.

The Chancel is late Decorated; there are no foliations either in the head or in the lights of the windows. Both the east and the side windows are very plain outside, the dripstones very simple, and the mullions flush with the outer face of the wall. But in the inside these windows have good hood-moulds, especially the east win-

dow; the label of which has a deep hollow under it, which gives it boldness and distinctness. Beneath each window is a recess, which gives a great appearance of lightness to the Chancel. That under the east window is 7 ft. 6 in. broad, and in this stood the Altar. Those under the side windows were made by the present Rector; who has also filled the five windows of the Chancel with coloured glass, suggested by some fragments of old glass, which served as a pattern for the new. The side windows are of two lights: there were three on each side in the original design, but those in the centre have been blocked up by large mural monuments of the Wickham family in the modern taste. Both the south-west and north-west windows are what Rickman calls "low side windows." Such a window is often found on the south side; but not often on the north. The lower parts of these windows have the original iron bars, and were lately found on examination to be separated from the upper parts by a plain transom. They were before walled up as high as the transom; and now partly so in consequence of pews in the inside.

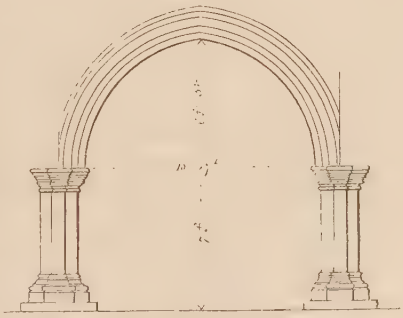
Low Side Window

Close by the south-east window is a piscina with cut spandrels, which makes it look like late Decorated work, and so it will well agree with the date assigned to the rest of the Chancel.

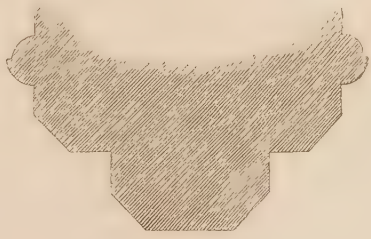
The present credence-table is formed out of the old communion-table. This being much decayed, another of carved oak, somewhat larger, has been substituted in its place. The communion-rails are good of their kind, probably of the age of King Charles II. There are a few encaustic tiles in the Chancel and

some other parts of the Church, apparently of the fourteenth century, or of the beginning of the fifteenth, when considerable alterations and additions seem to have been made, such as the Chancel-screen, &c. The roof is now quite hid by plaster; but it seems to have been of a kind not unfrequently found in the neighbourhood of Oxford, being an open cant roof. A good example may be seen in Ducklington Church, near Witney, and another at Beckley. It is difficult to tell the age of a roof of this description, which has no strongly marked mouldings in any of its timbers. Those at Ducklington and Beckley seem to be of the fourteenth century; this at Garsington may perhaps have been copied from an older one, as the wall-plate has late mouldings, probably of the time of King Charles II., when some considerable repairs were made in the Church. The Chancel has a small doorway on the south side, of similar character, and of the same date as the side windows. The oak door has been lately renewed.

The Chancel-arch, which is large and lofty, seems to correspond in general character with the Early English part of the Church. It has recessed mouldings, which partly die into the wall, and partly are carried by a kind of corbel, but this does not appear to have been the original finish. An examination of that part of the arch near the pulpit, will shew that it was carried by a respond on either side, which had Early English caps: why these were cut away is not so clear; perhaps to make way for the rood-loft and



Nave Arches, South side.



Mouldings of Chancel-arch.

screen: and it is not unlikely that this alteration of the arch has contributed to throw it out of place; for at present, owing to its outward thrust, or to some settlement in the south wall, it has given over on that side, and a buttress has been added on the outside to strengthen the wall.

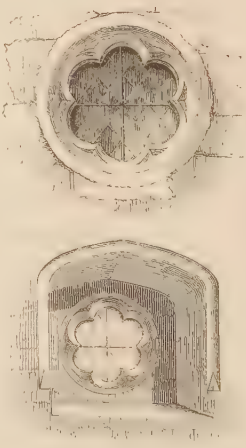
The Rood-screen is of rather late Perpendicular work.

The pulpit now stands on the south side, upon what seems to be the stone base of an older one; it is of the date of King Charles II., and both it and the reading-desk (which latter is made up of parts of the rood-screen) are furnished with a velvet covering inscribed, "D. D. Gul. Bell, 1779."

Just below the reading-desk are some monumental brasses, with this inscription:—"Here lyeth Thomas Radley gentleman and Elisabeth his wife ye which Thomas decessyed ye iii day of the month of October ye year of our lord God a thousand ccccclxxxiiii on whose soules Ihu have m'cy."

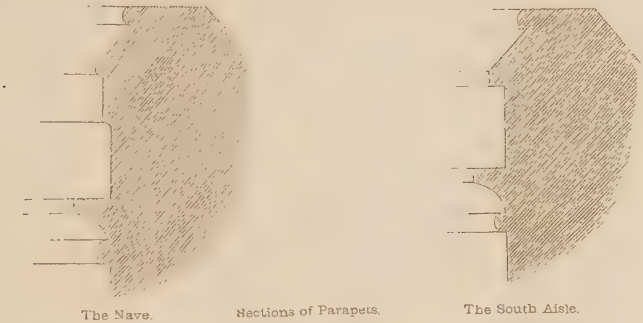
The Nave opens into the north aisle by four arches, and by as many into the south aisle. Its roof is Perpendicular; the tie-beams are cambered, and both they and the other timbers have been painted: the roof is much spoiled by later additions, for about the time of the Restoration the tie-beams were strengthened by struts and other means of support.

The clerestory windows are three in number on each side: they are foliated circles, of the same character as the south aisle, Decorated; in the interior they have for a hood-moulding a four-centred arch, which is generally a characteristic of Perpendicular work; yet it is found occasionally in the earlier styles. The eastern clerestory window on the north side has been replaced by a large square window of the time of Charles II. This was probably inserted by Dr. Bathurst, as it corresponds exactly with those in his new building, at Trinity College,



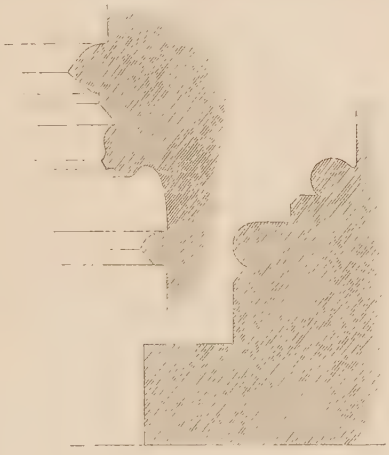
Clerestory Window

called after his name. The Decorated parapet, together with the



The Nave. Sections of Parapets. The South Aisle.

cornice, was taken off at the same time, and put on again as before, only the cornice was made to run round the square window, serving for a kind of label. The cornice of the aisles is the same; the parapet of the south aisle is somewhat different from that of the clerestory, but of the same date. The north aisle has a late parapet.



Cap and Base, north Pillar of Nave.

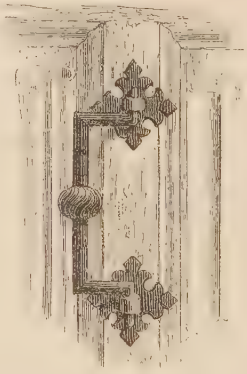
The pillars and arches on the north side are of Early English date. The pillars are cylindrical, short, with bold square bases and caps; they carry low arches with recessed mouldings, which have labels toward the nave, but none toward the aisle. These labels are carried by corbels of Early English character between the arches; but at the western respond are returned to the west wall of the nave. The pillars and arches on the south side, are partly copied from those on the north, though the variations are considerable; the pillars, for instance, are octagonal instead of cylindrical: they have the same proportions, but the capitals are richer, being very good Decorated: the arches and their mouldings are the same; they have labels

on both sides, toward the nave and toward the aisles: at the western respond these labels were to have been carried by a head, but the stones still remain uncut. This work is evidently later.

Corbels of the Arches of Nave.

At the west end a cumbrous gallery obscures the tower arch. The plain open seats apparently of the fifteenth century, are of similar character with those in Great Haseley, Charlton, and indeed almost all the country Churches about Oxford; some are of later date.

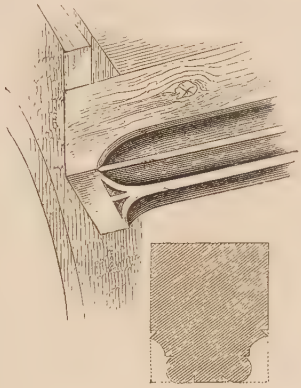
The south Aisle has a three-light east window, with elegant flowing Decorated tracery; the hood-moulding is the same as that of the inner label of the east window of the Chancel. The cornice of the arch stops against its head in a rather singular manner. There are three south windows of two lights each, two to the east, and one to the west of the south doorway. These windows are square-headed, with segmental inner arches, and have the same mouldings as the east window.



Iron Handle, South Door.

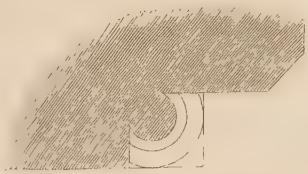
In the south wall is a good Decorated piscina, with an ogee arch. The south doorway has good mouldings of the fourteenth century; over it has been added a wooden porch, in the fifteenth. The west window of this aisle is late

South Window of South Aisle



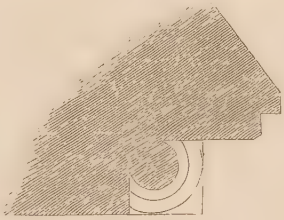
Section of Principal of South Aisle

Mouldings of Belfry Window, above Cap



Mouldings of Belfry Window, below Cap.

Mouldings of Lower West Window, above Cap.



Mouldings of Lower West Window, below Cap.

Mouldings of South Door.

Mouldings of North Door

Perpendicular: the wall above this window has been taken down and rebuilt, when the window was inserted, a very poor parapet was put on, and the slope of the lean-to roof was lowered considerably. Inside the roof of this aisle, as well as that of the other, is almost entirely hid by lath and plaster; still the principals stand out boldly with good Decorated mouldings.

The South Porch

The north Aisle has windows nearly the same in position and character as the south; with these differences, that inside they have pointed segmental arches, and the mouldings of their labels outside are not the same, but answer to the mouldings of the doorway, and the caps of the pillars of the south aisle. Opposite the south doorway, is another of Early English character, and very singular mouldings, which were at first carried by a shaft on either side, of which only the caps now remain, built into two small buttresses, which were added, together with two other buttresses, as it appears, in the year 1668, to strengthen the side wall, which was then beginning to fall outwards. At the same time it was found necessary to strengthen the roof

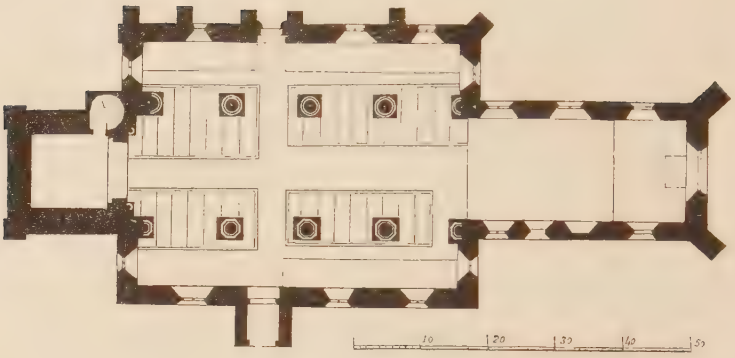
The North Doorway.

of the aisle, which was done by inserting large pieces of wood under all the principals, that the ends of the principals and the wall-plate might not come asunder. The date of these alterations in the church is recorded on a stone at the east end of this north aisle [L B F F 1668] : two of the buttresses in this aisle seem to be original, and coeval with the windows, namely, those at the angles. The east window of the aisle is of the same character as the east window of the Chancel. The west window is the same as that of the south aisle; here also the wall has been partly rebuilt in an irregular way, leaving a part of the old wall at the north-west corner standing out beyond it, and looking like a buttress.

Near the west end of this aisle stands the Font, which is of poor design and material, inscribed round, "The gift of Richard Turrill, clerk of this parish, Anno D^{ni}. 1782."

The Tower is about 42 ft. high; the tower-arch is good Early English, pointed, with recessed mouldings; in its general character it is Norman, but its mouldings are quite Early English, as are the capitals of the shafts which carry these mouldings. The date is probably about the year 1200.

The tower has no western doorway. The west window has a semicircular head; but over this on the outside is a rude pointed arch carried by circular shafts: the window is widely splayed inside. At the north-west and south-west angles are small shallow buttresses. On the north side is a buttress of bold projection, in which is the newel staircase leading to the belfry. In the second stage are three small slits with semicircular heads, looking north, west, and south. The belfry stage is pierced with eight pointed windows, two on each side, with returned dripstones and mouldings, carried by shafts with square abaci. Between each window is a small head projecting from the wall. Above the belfry window is a corbel-table; some of the corbels have the tooth-moulding cut in them, others have Norman ornaments. The parapet seems to be original; it consists merely of a slope, surmounted by a beading. W.G.



Plan of the Church

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In Saxon and Norman times it was spelt Gers-ing-dun, or Gersedune; signifying a hill that overlooks meadows or pastures abounding in gorse, or coarse grass. The latter orthography is adopted in the Domesday Survey.

The greater part of the land in the parish at the time of the Conquest belonged to the Monastery of St. Mary at Abingdon. Gilbert Le Gand held seven hides and a half, that is, about nine hundred acres, under the Abbat and Convent; and other tenants are mentioned, in the valuable Survey of the Norman Commissioners, as holding inferior portions. One hide of land (120 acres) formed part of the Conqueror's grant to Miles Crispin. In the thirteenth century, the Knights Templars held lands in this parish, which being escheated to the crown were granted to Sir Richard D'Amary, of Bucknill, and by him transferred to John de Bloxham. In the 28th Edward I., John de la Mare was summoned to Parliament as baron of Garsington; the same name appears also in the "Inquisitiones post mortem," in the 9th Edward II. In the Hundred Rolls of Edward I. considerable portions are said to be held by the Hospitallers of St. John beyond the east gate in Oxford, and by the Rector of the Church also, as belonging to the Honour of Wallingford. At that time the Jurors under the Rolls-Commission returned Isabella de la Mare as the Lady of the Manor, which she held by the service of half a knight's fee, when the King was in the army. It is probable that this is the same Isabella who is known afterwards as Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle, whose son, by her former husband, in 28 Edw. I., had summons to parliament amongst the Barons of the realm, by the style and title of John de la Mare of Gersyngdon.

She appears to have been interred in Garsington Church, if the following inscription on her grave-stone be correctly stated:

The whole inscription may be thus read:

✠ "Isabele de Fortibus gist ici:
Deu de sa alme eyt merci:"

The size of the grave-stone, which is nearly a parallelogram, is about 7 feet by 3 feet; and the general character of it, as well as the round form of the letters, corresponding with the date of her death (1293), as given in the additions to Dugdale's Baronage, in the Collectanea Topographica, Part XXVI. 148. There was originally an elegant cross flory, now much defaced, and other sculpture. Sufficient traces, nevertheless, of the letters of the inscription remain to identify the person intended to be commemorated. This is the oldest grave-stone in the Church. There are traces remaining of some of a later date, and a stone coffin has been found in the chancel.

The patronage of the Church appears to have been vested, from a very early period, in the Prior and Convent of the Holy Trinity at Wallingford, which was a cell to the great Benedictine monastery of St. Alban from the time of Paul the Norman, the fourteenth Abbat, who died in 1093. A "Magister de Sancto Albano," or Sancti Albani, is mentioned in the margin of the valor of Pope Nicholas; but perhaps he merely presented to the Rectory *pro hac vice:* for, with one exception only[a], the Prior and Convent of Wallingford presented the Rectors from the first entry in the register of the Diocese of Lincoln till the dissolution of the monastic establishments.

About the middle of the fourteenth century there was a severe contest between the Rector of this Church and the Convent of St. Frideswide, respecting the tithes of the north end moiety of the manor, which after a long process of litigation, and an appeal to Rome, was referred back to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as sole arbitrator, who decided in favour of the Rector, reserving a quit rent of forty shillings for ever to the convent. The Prior was afterwards deprived for avarice and extortion, and a new charter of appropriation was obtained from the crown 15 and 16 Ric. ij, confirming the ancient claims of the Priory of Wallingford to the advowson and emoluments of the Rectory. Hence some writers have erroneously stated, that the Church was then first given and appropriated to the Priory.

Soon after the dissolution of the Priory, the living came into the possession of Sir Thomas Pope, who obtained the patronage for his College by a grant from the Crown in the reign of Philip and Mary, annexing the Church and Parsonage to the headship of the same, to be

[a] A.D. 1479. Robert Middleton was presented June 18th by Sir Edward Rede, Knt.—Reg. Rotheram.

Sepulchral Brass of the Radley family. 1521.

[For the use of this woodcut the Society is indebted to the President of Trinity.]

held in free socage for ever. The Founder's intention in this purchase partly was, "to erect a house there for the President, Fellows, and Scholars to repose them in when any plague shall happen within the University;" an object which was confirmed by the sanction of the Crown. The house was erected accordingly, with money provided by the Founder, but not finished till after his death. It was occupied by the members of the College during the plague of 1577; not being finished in 1563, when they were obliged to retire to Woodstock. It is now occupied by the Curate. The situation of this Parsonage, of the Church, and of the School-house, is highly picturesque, and commands extensive views of the surrounding country between the Chiltern Hills and the Wantage Downs.

An inclosure of this parish was attempted in vain in the reign of James I.

It appears from Wood's Annals, that Sir Thomas Fairfax, on the 1st of May, 1646, previous to the siege of the city of Oxford, drew up his army between Garsington and Abingdon, and the same night made Garsington his head-quarters. On the following morning there was a general muster of the army, horse and foot, on Bullingdon Green, whence his forces were distributed to their several quarters at Headington, Marston, and other villages around.

The oldest register in this parish begins in 1562.

It is a Rectory, valued in the King's books at £14. 19s. 8¾d. The present value, according to the Parliamentary return, is £482. The population by the last census was 597.

Several minute particulars respecting the property in this parish, omitted here from want of space, may be seen in Mr. Skelton's Antiquities of Oxfordshire.

Two large Schools, for both sexes, were erected in this parish in 1840 and 1841, with a dwelling-house for the master and mistress. The site was liberally given by Thomas Plumer Halsey, Esq., of Temple Dinsley, in Hertfordshire, consisting of three roods of land on Garsington Green, in the centre of the parish, bounded on all sides by public roads, being an allotment granted to the lord of the North-end manor at the time of the inclosure, in lieu of right to coil of commons and waste grounds. It is demised to the President, Fellows, and Scholars of Trinity College for 999 years, the President for the time being, as Rector, to have the appointment of the master and mistress and the general superintendance of the Schools; the children to be instructed in the tenets and principles of the Church of England as now established, &c.[b] The cost of erecting these Schools amounted to about £1500; about one-third of which sum was raised by a liberal subscription among some of the Colleges and individuals interested in the parish, and the remaining two-thirds were defrayed by the President of Trinity College as Rector of the parish.

[b] Indenture of Demise, 2nd of April, 1840, Coll. Reg. I. I.

NORTH-EAST VIEW OF THE DWELLING-HOUSE AND SCHOOLS, erected in 1810, 1811

SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE DWELLING-HOUSE AND SCHOOLS, erected in 1840, 1841.

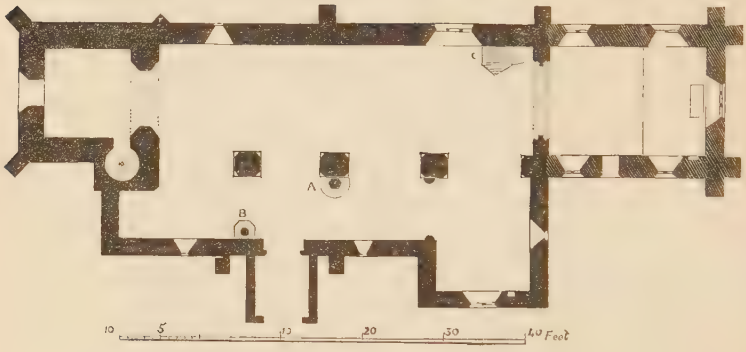
[For the use of these two woodcuts, the Society is indebted to the President of Trinity.]

HORSEPATH.

PATRON.
MAGDALENE COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Giles.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN,
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



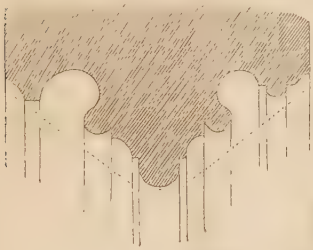
Ground Plan.

A. The Font. B. The Stoup. C. The Pulpit.

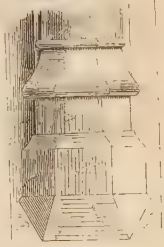
The Church of Horsepath (called in Domesday Horspadan), is a small edifice—consisting of a western tower, nave, south aisle, south transept, and Chancel.

The tower is rather short, yet well proportioned. It is of Perpendicular work: the buttresses are angular. The western side has a four-centred doorway with a square dripstone, and above it a three-light window, both of good bold work. In the window are some remains of the painted glass, but the colours are faint. These consist of a representation of the Crucifixion, with the Virgin and St. John. Below this is a fragment, which contains some of the emblems of the Crucifixion. On the southern side of the tower is the staircase-turret: the belfry windows are four-centred, with a square moulding running all round. The tower has one of the high pyramidal roofs which seem to have been the usual finish of towers, especially of those which were not lofty, and which give a very elegant effect.

The arch between the tower and nave is the most beautiful feature in the interior of the Church. It is of the same date as the tower. The mouldings are bold, the execution of the whole good. Most unfortunately this is lost to the Church, for just in front of it is a huge singing gallery, which also shuts out the view of the head of the west window.

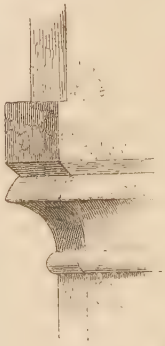


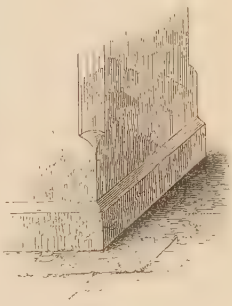
Mouldings of Tower arch below Cap.



Cap and Base of Shaft, Tower-arch.

The nave of the Church was built about the end of the twelfth century. One of the original windows remains in the northern wall; it is pointed, small, and has Early English mouldings of plain character. In the same wall are two late Perpendicular windows. On the south side of the nave, separating it from the south aisle, are four arches. There are three square pillars, and one respond at the east end; the westernmost arch was supported by a corbel in the western wall; but it has been taken down some time, and in its place is a segmental arch which abuts against the wall of the tower. The corbel just mentioned is in fact nothing more than the capital of the pillar that originally supported this arch, which pillar was built round by the walls of the tower. Built into this wall are two curious figures, one with a bagpipe. The tradition is, that they were two deformed persons, who left money to build the tower.





Cap and Base of Pillar in Nave.

The remaining arches are pointed and plain, as well as the pillars, with the exception of a chamfer at the angles. The open seats in the nave are very plain; the bench ends at each extremity of the ranges are finished by poppies.

Above the pier-arches is a modern clearstory, which lights the nave.

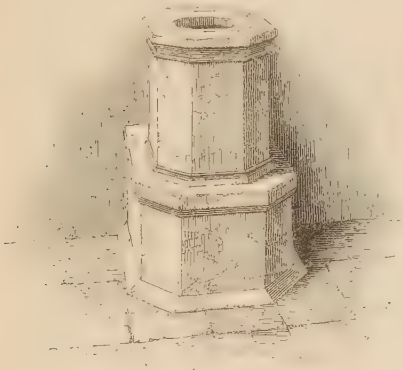
The south aisle is entered by a porch of late work; the doorway inside this porch is of the same character as the pier-arches in the nave. The south wall was rebuilt very late in the thirteenth century, at which time also the transept was carried out. It is singular that there are no traces of windows in this wall, but there are two small openings, which perhaps were made when the tower was built. The buttresses are very plain and early. The original pitch of the roof has been lowered very considerably, the present one is open to the interior, and is of late Perpendicular work. Near the south door is the Font; it is hexagonal, lined with lead, and stands on a circular base; it seems to be of the same age as the pillars and arches. But the greatest curiosity in this Church is on the west side of the door. The villagers say that it is a second font; some have supposed it to be the base of a cross, some the upper

Parapet, South Aisle.

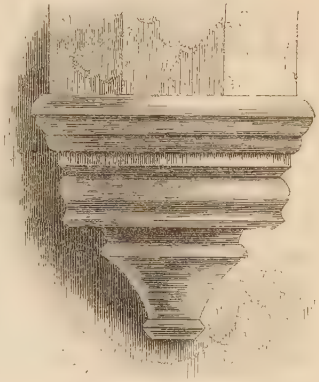
Section of Arch, South Aisle.

The Font.

part of a shaft: but it is more probable that it is a stoup. If so, it is probably unique, for it is of the same date as the oldest parts of the church. The arch at the east end of the aisle is early Decorated, the corbels which support it are singularly beautiful.



The Stoup.



Corbel of Arch, South Aisle.

The south transept was probably built in the latter part of the thirteenth century. At the south end is a very curious

Window, South Transept.

Section through the head. Section of Jamb.

two-light window; the lights are finished on the exterior with a kind of ornament like an arrow-head. The dripstone mould-

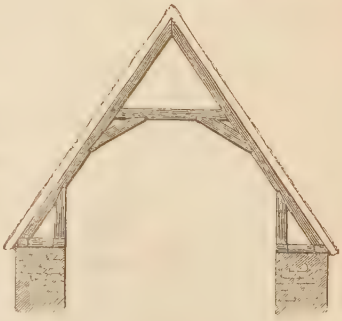
ings are Decorated, but the jamb mouldings are completely Early English. There are no foliations, either in the heads of the lights or in the circle above. In the east wall is an elegant piscina, and near it a bracket, both of the same date as the transept: these shew that this transept was a chapel. In this same wall is a small early Decorated window of one light, the mouldings are very simple, but the window is an elegant one.

Window, East side of Transept.

Against the north wall of the nave, and opposite this transept, is the pulpit, which is of late work, as is the reading-desk.

The Chancel, which was rebuilt in 1840, had Early English walls, a small south door, and a very curious cross over the east end, which has been preserved. There was a piscina, of the same date, very much like that in the south transept, and a plain, though ancient roof, closely resembling that of Beckley Church, which has mouldings of the fourteenth century. (See Beckley, p. 206.) The side windows were late in the fifteenth century; these have been replaced. The east window was of the same date, but had the dripstone of an earlier window finished by a curious mask.

The Cross.



The old Chancel-roof.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday Survey, Horsepath is mentioned by the name of Horspadan, and the manor was then the property of the King, and was granted to Roger de Ivery. It was afterwards the property of the Knights Templars.

A.D. 1149, 14, 15 King Stephen, Horsepath formed part of the grant to Osney Abbey.

A.D. 1229, 13, 14 Hen. III., Richard, earl of Cornwall, presented to the Church of Horsepath, and again in 1247.

A.D. 1231. This year mention is made of a suit between Osney Abbey and the Rector of Horsepath, concerning the lesser tithes thereof[a].

A.D. 1309, 2 and 3 Edw. II., Sir Richard D'Amory computed for lands of the Knights Templars escheated to the king within the manor of Horsepath, &c., &c., and A.D. 1312, John de Bloxam accounted for the same lands. This John de Bloxam was a witness against the Templars[b].

A.D. 1452. The Church of Horsepath was appropriated to the Hospital of St. John Baptist, in Oxford[c].

In Browne Willis's volumes of MSS., numbered 45, is a letter of Mr. George Rye, rector of Islip, to Browne Willis, dated Islip, 25 March, 1730, in which he says: "At Horsepath the tower is said to have been built by Thomas London, a bag-piper, and that he and his wife are

there buried; and in the front of the entrance to the tower from the body of the Church are their figures in stone, the man being on the right with his bag-pipes. The Wake is kept on the first Sunday in

[a] In Reg. Osney, in Bibl. Cotton, fol. 116. b.

[b] Bodleian MSS. 494, f. 95.

[c] Vide Pat. 20 Hen. VI. p. 1. m. 17.

September, and the Church is dedicated to St. Giles, but Mr. Hearne conjectures it was dedicated to St. John the Baptist."

In the nave near the pulpit is a small window of stained glass, containing the figure of a man holding a boar's head on the point of a spear: probably a representation of one of the lords of the manor of Boarstall. Antony Wood mentions a figure so represented in the beginning of the Leiger Book of Borstall, a manuscript written by Edmund Rede, Esq., lord of the manor in the time of Henry VI.[d] "In the beginning of this book is represented in colours the mannour house of Borstall, with a moat round it, and the lord of the mannour, Joannes Filius Nigelli, issuing out of his house to meet a certain King and his retinew, and at some distance from the house, the Lord kneels down to the King, *and presents him with a boar's head on the top of a sword or speare.* This, as the tradition of the family goeth, is an allusion to the custom of the mannour of Borstall, to present the King with a Boar's Head, because the said mannour was in ancient time, when 'twas woody, a stall or den for wild boars."

In the north window of the chancel are the arms of Magdalene College, and in the south, the figures of St. Mary and St. John, as they are generally represented beneath the cross. These were originally in the east window, with the figure of our Lord on the rood between them.

The stoup is of a very unusual form, but a very similar one from Penmôn, in the isle of Anglesey, is engraved in the Archæological Journal, vol. i. p. 122, and it is there stated that "at Penmon, until within a few years, a *water-stoup* of the same age as the font was used; and at Llandegvan another water-stoup is still employed for the baptismal sacrament."

Horsepath is now a Perpetual Curacy, held with a Fellowship of Magdalene College, not in charge in the King's Book. The present value, according to the Parliamentary return, is £91, and the population 295.

[d] See the Life of Antony à Wood, page lxi.

SANDFORD.

PATRON.
THE DUKE OF
MARLBOROUGH.

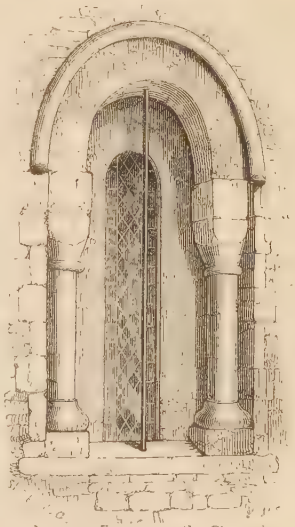
St. Andrew.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

Chancel	. . .	27 ft.	1 in.	by	11 ft.	9 in.
Nave	. . .	31	10	by	15	10
Tower	. . .	14	7	by	12	3

This Church, which is described by the antiquary Hearne[a] as "a small thing and of mean building," underwent considerable repairs and alterations in the year of our Lord 1840, under the superintendance of Mr. Derick, Architect. A Norman tower of two stages was added at the west end, the roof of the nave was raised to its original pitch, and the arches of the Chancel and Tower were built. A window of two lights with three engaged shafts was made in the south side, in the place of a Perpendicular window, square headed, of two lights, removed to the eastern end of the north wall. In the Chancel, a new Altar was placed at the east end, and a north window was inserted, containing a symbol of the Holy Trinity, and the royal arms. The east window, a trefoiled lancet, is filled with painted glass by Mr. Willement, representing the Crucifixion.

The fittings throughout the Church have been remodelled, preserving a number of seats of the date A.D. 1630, with variously carved poppy-heads. It is to be regretted that the pleasing appearance of uniformity thus produced is somewhat lessened by a raised pew on the north side of the nave, and a gallery at the west end.



Norman Window in the Chancel

The walls appear to be those of the original Church, built by Gerri de Planastre[b], soon after the Conquest. The earliest features in the nave are the north and south doors, the former of which is still stopped up, and a Norman window. The Font,

[a] Account of Antiq. near Oxford. Lel. Itin., ii. p. 92.

[b] Hundred Rolls.

which is large and plain, is probably of the thirteenth century, or earlier; it is lined with lead and the drain is still used.

On the south side of the Chancel is a small Norman window, having externally heavy engaged shafts. To the east of this is also a Norman narrow window, corresponding to which is another on the north side. Near the window last mentioned is a plain recess, which may have been the Easter sepulchre; and below this is an altar-tomb, quite plain, now used as a credence. On the south side is a like tomb, but of much later date, with debased Arabesque work on the front. Above this is a mural monument to Sir William Powell, of Tutbury, Staffordshire, brother of Edmund Powell, Esq., lord of the manor of Sandford, erected by his heir, John Powell, Esq., grandson of the latter, in the year of our Lord 1661; the whole is surmounted by the Powell arms, viz. Or, a lion rampant Sable; over all, a fesse Gules.

The curious piece of carving in alabaster fixed against the east wall was dug up in the church-yard after being buried more than a hundred years; the subject is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, who is represented as surrounded by rays of glory, and attendant angels, two of whom, beneath the figure, hold a reliquary, upon which, as well as on other parts of the sculpture, the remains of gilding are still visible. There are several encaustic tiles at this end of the Chancel of various patterns,

the most distinct of which are fleurs-de-lis, set lozenge-wise, on tiles four and a half inches square.

The bells, which before the building of the present tower were protected from the weather by a wooden box, are four in number; of these one bears the inscription,

Prayse ye lorde. ✠C. 1592.

Another, This bell was made 1606, ✠C.

The third bell has some letters upon it now illegible, but the fourth, a small bell, has none.

Over the south door is a porch, which tells its own history in the following inscription:

CONDIDIT ME DN̄IA ELIZA · ISHAM

ANNO GRATIÆ 1652.

PORTICVS PATRONÆ.

Thankes to thy charitie, religiose Dame
Wch found mee old & made mee newe againe.

Near this south entrance has lately been dug up a well-wrought Norman capital, which may have been part of the former porch.

The farm-house in a field on the north-west side of the Church has usually been looked upon as the remains of the old Preceptory of Knights Templars in this place, but the only ancient parts of it are some slight traces of Early English work in what was formerly the chapel[c]; these consist of a portion of the east window and a roll-moulded string-course; the doorway is much later, of Perpendicular character. In the garden is a gateway bearing the date 1614, on each side of which there are fragments of architectural ornaments built into the wall, and

c The chapel of the Knights Templars at Sandford was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. (See Wood's MS. 10. f. 22.) For a notice of this chapel in later times, and the burial there of the remains of George Napier, a seminary priest who was hanged, drawn, and quartered, A.D. 1610, see Wood's Annals, vol. ii. p. 166 sub A.D. 1568.

among them a reversed shield of late date, having carved upon it a cross pattée, the badge of the Knights Templars, and also of their successors at Sandford, the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Hearne, who saw these buildings A.D. 1722, in a much more perfect state, thought they were the remains of a nunnery, principally from "the heads of veiled nuns fixed on divers parts of the outside of the building[d]." The latter supposition agrees very well with the return in the Hundred Rolls, which leads to the conclusion, that besides the well-known nunnery of Sandford or Littlemore, there was (A.D.1272) another nunnery in the parish, founded upon the Templars' land by Robert de Sandford. Upon the whole, however, tradition is so strongly in favour of this having been the house of the Templars, that it seems reasonable to refer to them, rather than to the nuns of the smaller priory, the few traces of thirteenth century work, and to suppose that the additions which belong to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were made by their successors, the Knights Hospitallers. About a mile to the east of the Church are the remains of the other and more important nunnery, which, being on the confines of Sandford and Littlemore, takes its name from either. A range of building, running north and south, is still called the "Minchery," a word formed from "myncean," a Saxon word for nun. Mr. Hearne, A.D. 1722, was able to make out the ruins of the church or chapel, on the north side; the refectory, in which the old table was still standing; and several other portions, of which he has given an interesting sketch in the Appendix to the History of Glastonbury[e]. Time has now nearly completed its ravages on this ancient building; even the stone coffins, described by Mr. Hearne, lately fell

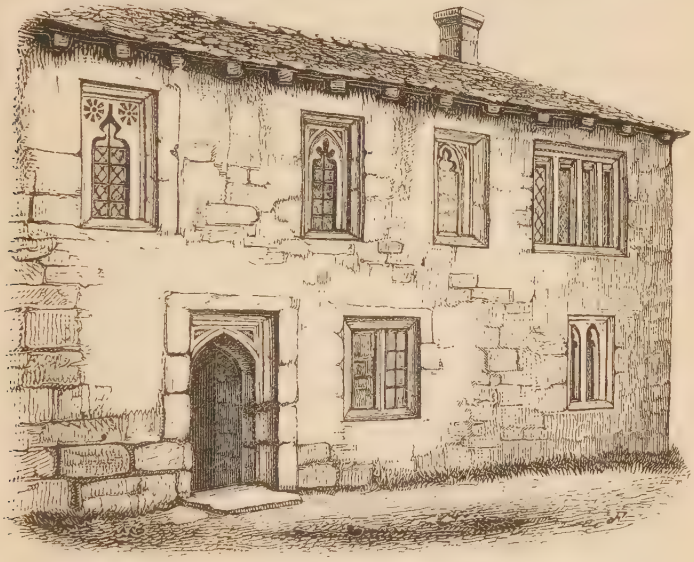
Window in the Minchery

[d] Lel. Itin., vol. ix. p. 118.

[e] See also Preface, xvi—xxiii.

Crest Tiles from the Minchery

to pieces, when an attempt was made to move them, and although the Minchery must always be an interesting object for a summer's walk, there are no remains either here, or at the farm near the Church, to reward the antiquary for a special visit.



THE MINCHERY

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1054. King Edward the Confessor gave to the Abbey of St. Mary of Abingdon four manses on common land at Sandford, the same which had been granted four years previously to Godwin[f].

A.D. 1084. 18 William I. A portion of the land in Sandford was held by Odo, Bishop of Baieux, and the remainder by the Abbey of St. Mary of Abingdon[g].

Soon after the Conquest, Gerri de Planastre founded the Church of

[f] Cott. MS. Brit. Mus. Claud. B. vi. f. 114 and 115.

[g] Domesday Survey, f. 156. b. and 2.

Sandford upon his own land. The possessions of Gerri de Planastre descended to Radulphus de Sandford, and the Church became impropriate to the nuns of Littlemore[h]. This was the parish Church dedicated to St. Andrew.

A.D. 1177. 24 Hen. II. In this year, according to Bp. Kennett, Roger de Sanford gave to the Benedictine nunnery of Littlemore, in the parish of Sandford, still called the "Minchery," and said to have been founded in Saxon times, a third part of his island at Keniton. Among the witnesses are John de Sanford; the King's marshal; Thomas de Sanford, Adam de Sanford, Richard de Sanford, Hugh de Sanford, pages to the King; and Fulcho de Sanford[i].

A.D. 1216. 1 Hen. III. William Fitz Robert, clerk of Thomas de Sandford, was presented by letters patent to the Church of Sandford then vacant and in the royal patronage, because the lands of Josceus de Baiocis were in the hands of the King[k].

A.D. 1218. 2 Hen. III. The manor of Sandford, including two hides of land in Denton and one in Wheatley, with the advowson of the Church of Blewbury, Berks, was given to the Knights Templars by Thomas de Sandford, who appears to have filled the office of Chamberlain during the reign of King John, being constantly intrusted with the care of the royal purse, jewels, and wardrobe[l]. In the beginning of the reign of Hen. III. he became a Templar[m], and therefore it may be supposed that his donation to the Templars took place at this time, although it has been placed somewhat earlier by Bp. Tanner[n], and Mr. Hearne[o]. The Templars had already a preceptory at Cowley, which place had been given them by the Empress Maud, and they also held Littlemore, in which they were enfeoffed by Roger de St. Andrew, as of the honor of Leicester[p], but in course of time Sandford became their head quarters in this neighbourhood.

In the beginning of the reign of Hen. III. St. Alban Hall (in Oxford) with another tenement on the west side of it afterwards called "Noone Hall," were given to the nuns of Littlemore by Roger de St. Alban, citizen of Oxford[q].

A.D. 1244. 28 Hen. III. Pope Innocent IV. in the second year of his pontificate, by a bull directed to all the faithful in the dioceses

[h] Hundred Rolls, tom. ii. p. 723.

[i] Bp. Tanner's Notitia Monastica, art. Littlemore. Dugd. Mon. N. E. iv. 490. and Ingram's Memorials.

[k] Rot. lit. pat. anno 1216, p. 187.

[l] Rot. lit. claus.

[m] Ibid. p. 349.

[n] Notitia Monastica, art. Sandford.

[o] Lel. Itin., vol. ii. p. 91.

[p] Hundred Rolls, tom. ii. p. 723, and Testa de Nevill, p. 112.

[q] Hist. and Antiq. of Oxford, by à Wood (Gutch), vol. ii. p. 654.

of Lincoln, Ely, and Salisbury, granted a relaxation of ten days of enjoined penance to all who should aid the prioress and convent of the Benedictine monastery of Lytelmore in rebuilding their Church.

The original bull is preserved, among other documents relating to this monastery, in the Ashmolean Museum. The Church thus rebuilt was on the north side of the Minchery, and was styled the Conventual Church of St. Nicholas of Sandford, being also dedicated to St. Mary, and St. Eadmund. It has been destroyed more than an hundred years[r].

A.D. 1272. 1 Edward I. In Sandford sunt ix hide et dimidia quarum preceptor Templi de Covele tenet iij hidas et dim. per servicium dimid. feodi militis ad wardam Castri de Windlesore per xvij septimanas xl[d].

Heredes domini Radulphi de Sandford tenent v hidas per servicium unius feodi militis ad wardam ejusdem castri eodem modo. Item sunt de baronia de Abendon.

Item Abbas de Osen', tenet j hidam de prebenda Sancti Georgii et est de feodo Doyli. Preceptor et heredes Radulphi de Sandford sequuntur hundredum[s].

Ecclesia de Sandford quam priorissa de Littlemore et conventus tenent in proprios usus fundata est super feod. Radulphi de Sandford. . . . . Item una prioria sanctimonialium fundata est in una pastura que vocatur Cherleyham et pertinet ad manerium de Sandford quod Templarii tenent et fundata fuit per Robertum de Sandford qui illam pasturam sanctimonialibus dedit . . . . Et ille locus qui tunc vocabatur Chirleham nunc vocatur Chaldewelle[t].

A.D. 1274. 2 Edward I. About this time the preceptory of Knights Templars was moved from Temple Cowley to Sandford, and a transcript was made of their charters, which is still preserved in the Bodleian Library, with the following cotemporary description on the inside of the cover:—

"In isto libro continentur transcripta cartarum et aliorum instrumentorum ballive de Saumford ordinata et coadunata tempore fratris Roberti le Escropp tunc preceptoris ibidem."

[r] See Dugdale's Monasticon, N. E., vol. iv. p. 492. Hearne's Hist. of Glast., Preface, xvi. A.D. 1722.

[s] Hundred Rolls, tom. ii. p. 39. See also pp. 722-3. Radulphus de Sandford tenet in eadem (sc. Sandford) feodum unius militis de feodo Abbatis de Abendon et idem Abbas de Rege in capite. Testa de Nevill, temp. Hen. III.

[t] Rot. Hund. ii. f. 722-3. Isabella de Henred monialis de Saumford electa per conventum ejusdem loci in priorissam de Saumford. Thoma de Saumford patrono, suum ad id adhibente consensum. A.D. 1229, R. Dodsw. MS. vol. cvii. f. 45. cf. Rot. lit. claus. t. i. f. 357. A.D. 1218.

The book consists of 119 leaves, on the first nine of which are written deeds relating specially to Sandford. Some of the more interesting notices not printed in the Monasticon are, 1. A confirmation, by Katerina Paynel, daughter of Adam de Pyriton, the nephew of Thomas de Samford, of the manor of Sandford, and other gifts of her father and great uncle[u]. 2. A like confirmation by William Peverel, nephew of Thomas de Sandford, dated in the land of Syria in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ mccxli. on the second day of May, witnessed by William Longespee and others[x]. 3. An agreement by which the Knights Templars grant to the nuns of Littlemore three acres of meadow in Sandford, in lieu of small tithes[y]. 4. A covenant of mutual help and counsel between the Canons of Oseney and the Templars[z].

A.D. 1309. At the suppression of the Knights Templars, the following were among those sent to the Tower from the county of Oxford.

Frater Willielmus de Sautre, preceptor apud Samford.

Frater Willielmus de Warewyk, presbyter, frater apud Samford per tres annos et plus.

Frater Richardus de Colyngham, frater apud Samford per sex annos[a].

Soon after the above date, Sandford, like the other possessions of the Knights Templars, was given to the Knights Hospitalars of St. John of Jerusalem, who in like manner had a preceptory or commandry here, for the maintenance of which Temple Rockley in Wiltshire was expressly assigned.

A.D. 1512. 3 Hen. VIII. Sir Thomas Lelond, Knt., was sent by the special mandate of Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospitalars, to take an account of the rents within the "demesnes of the preceptory of Saumpford[b]." Among the notices relating especially to Sandford contained in the rent-book thus made, is the following: "Sciendum est quod dominus prior Sancti Johannis in Anglia debet annuatim soluere Abbati de Abyngdon de Castellwarde pro terris suis infra manerium de Sampforde per annum iiij*s.* viij*d.* ob. et similiter eidem Abbati pro quodam prato vocato Turvet jacente super Ripam Thamisie apud Sampforde per annum ij*s.* viij*d.*

A.D. 1524. 15 Hen. VIII. Littlemore was one of the small monasteries suppressed by the Pope's bull, and given to Cardinal Wolsey toward the erection of his new College in Oxford. Afterwards it

[u] Wood's MS. 10. f. 2. b.

[x] Ibid. f. 3.

[y] Ibid. f. 5. b.

[z] Ibid. f. 17.

[a] Wilkins's Concilia, ii. p. 347.

[b] Rentale de novo renovatum, &c., in Bibl. Coll. Corp. Christi, Oxon. MS. Davis.

became part of the endowment of the King's College there; and in 38 Hen. VIII. was granted, in exchange for other lands, to George Owen, Esq., and John Bridges, M.D.[c] From them it passed to Sir John, afterwards Lord Williams, of Thame, who in 2 Edw. VI. sold the "Minchery" to Edmund Powell, Esq.[d] After remaining in this family for several generations, it passed to that of Walker, from whom it was bought by the Duke of Marlborough.

There belonged to this nunnery at its suppression, in spiritualities 12*l.*, and in temporalities 21*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In all 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

The seal of Littlemore nunnery, found by a farmer about A.D. 1762, was shewn by the Bishop of Carlisle in 1765 at the Society of Antiquaries, being a man in a long gown and flowing hair[e].

A.D. 1542. 33 Hen. VIII. Soon after the dissolution, the house of the Knights Hospitalars was granted to Edward Powell, whose descendants also acquired the Minchery, which, with the site and possessions of this house in Sandford, at length became the property of the Duke of Marlborough.

A.D. 1661, June 29. 1 Charles II. The antiquary Antony à Wood made a visit to the house once belonging to the Templars, which he has thus noted.

"Mr. Francis Napier of Halywell and myself walked over to Sandford, 2 miles distant from Oxon, where we saw the ruins of an old Priory and a Chapel there adjoining . . . . this house at the dissolution came to the Powells, who enjoy it to this day; in the hall in a canton window there are these arms belonging to that family, viz.,

Argent, a cheveron Gules, between 3 cootes or ducks Sable; within a bordure Azure bezantée. Vert, 3 stirropps with leathers Or. Argent, on a fess Sable, 3 mullets of the first, between 3 annulets of the second, by the name of Fogge. There is in the same window also a crest of a coate of armes which is a hand brandishing a sword: and Powell's crest[f]."

The living of Sandford[g] is now a Donative, in the gift of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, and the present value is 15*l.*; the population 304, according to the last return. J. B.

[c] Dugd. Monast. N. E. iv. p. 491.

[d] Pref. to Hist. of Glastonbury xvii.

[e] Gough, Brit. Top., vol. ii. p. 86, quoted in Monasticon, N. E. iv. p. 491.

[f] Wood's MS. Ash. Mus. B. 15.

[g] Year Books 9 Edw. III., Trin. 24. Of the advowson of the Church of Saundford. Bp. Tanner, Not. Mon. art. Saunford.

NUNEHAM COURTNEY.

PATRON.
THE ARCHBISHOP
OF YORK.

All Saints.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

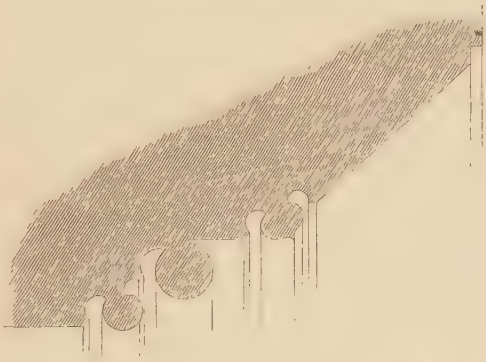
THE PRESENT CHURCH

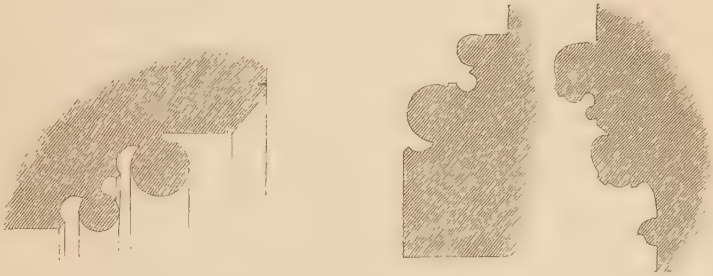
The old Church was taken down by Simon Lord Harcourt and the present building erected in 1764, after a design of his own, which was slightly corrected by Stuart. It affords a memorable instance of the taste of that age, of which it was the misfortune that those persons who were the most liberal, and desirous to serve the Church, and who, for their private virtues, were most worthy of praise, were precisely those who did the most mischief; the fault was that of the age, not of the individual.

Some fragments of the old Church are preserved in the grounds at Baldon House; they consist of the jambs of a fine Early English window, with the shafts, the section of the mouldings remarkably good; the caps and bases of the shafts are also well moulded. By the side of this is a small plain lancet window, and adjoining to it a splendid tomb of Sir Anthony Pollard, 1577, and Phillippa his wife, 1606; it is in the taste of that age, with Corinthian columns, &c., and the figures of the knight, his lady, and two children; the original colouring remains, though the whole is much mutilated[a].

[a] For notes of the arms and monuments in the former Church, taken A.D. 1660, see Harl. MS., Brit. Mus., No. 4170.

Remains of the Old Church.





Sections of Mouldings in the Old Church.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday Survey Nuneham is recorded as part of the grant of Milo Crispin.

According to Simon Earl Harcourt, at the Norman survey the Manor of Newnham belonged to Richard de Curci, afterwards to the family of Ripargs or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon, (who, as well as his uncle William, was surnamed de Vernon,) married in 1214 Robert de Courtney, Baron of Okehampton[b]. After these succeeded Sir John Pollard, of Devon. From the Pollards it came to — Audley, of the court of wards, called the Rich Audley; Robert Wright, Bishop of Lichfield, was the next owner of it; his son, Calvert Wright, sold it to John Robinson, of London, merchant, who was knighted in 1660 by King Charles II., and made lieutenant of the tower. From the Robinsons it descended to David, Earl of Wemys, (who married Mary, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Robinson, Bart.;) from the said Earl of Wemys it was purchased in 1710 for the sum of £ 17,000, by Simon, first Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England. It was the first Lord Harcourt who removed the cottagers from their proximity to the mansion and the Church to the situation in which the village now stands on the London road.

The living is a Rectory, in the gift of the Harcourt family, and formerly belonged to the Abbey of Abingdon. It was valued in the King's Books at 16*l.* 6*s.*: the present value is 456*l.*, and the population 514.

[b] Cf. Dugdale's Baronage, Courtney, Earls of Devon.

CULHAM.

PATRON. THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

St. Paul.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN. HUNDRED OF DORCHESTER.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.	
Chancel - -	33	4	by	14	3	
Nave - -	46	8	by	15	2	Aisle 10 3
North transept -	15	2	by	13	7	
South transept -	7	0	by	13	3	
Tower - -	12	10	by	10	7	

A SMALL plain Church; plan, cruciform, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL, with the exception of the north wall, is modern, and very bad; on the south side is a door, with a fan-light over it, and a brick chimney; on the north is a small trefoil recess, probably a locker for the cruets; a monument of Thomas Bury, of an ancient family of that name, of Bury Hall, in the county of Lancashire, who died in 1624, and married Judith, daughter of Dr. Laurence Humphrey. The communion-table has the date of 1638. The roofs are all ceiled and white-washed. The north transept has a two-light lancet window on each side, and a debased Perpendicular window at the end. The south transept has a Decorated window of two lights on the east side, and another of three lights at the end, the mullions crossing in the head, and foliated. The south aisle has on the south side a Decorated window of two lights, the dripstone partly cut off. The south porch is plain and poor, with the date 1638. On the north side is a single lancet window, and above is a range of four clearstory windows of two lights, square, the heads all cut off by the wall-plate of the roof. The tower is debased, plain, and late; there is the date of 1710 on the lead; the south door is Decorated, but of the poorest description.

In the north transept the north window is filled with shields of arms of the seventeenth century, and is curiously made part of the design of a monument of the date of 1638, to the Cary family, erected by the Lady Judith Cary, to the memory of Sir Edmund Cary, Knight, deceased 1637. He was sometime Esquire of the Body to Queen Elizabeth, and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King James I. and King Charles I., and was the son of Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon, Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth. In the jambs of the windows are chains of shields, with the arms of various families.

The Nave has on the south side five small arches, pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered, the chamfers continuing nearly to the ground, without caps or bases to the pillars; the chamfer terminations are good Early English. The tower-arch is lofty and well-proportioned, and pointed, but quite plain. It is boarded up, with a singers' gallery in front of it, with the date of 1721.

A stone font has recently been presented to the Church by J. Phillips, Esq., in the place of a mahogany one, which had been used for some years.

Near the Church is an Elizabethan manor house, with the date of 1610.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 821. Coenulf, King of Mercia, gave to the Monastery of Abingdon, at the request of his sisters Keneswyth and Burgevilde, who had selected Abingdon Monastery as their place of burial, fifteen manses in Culham, [loco, qui a ruricolis nuncupatur Cullanhaunna, cum omnibus utilitatibus ad eam pertinentibus,] with the meadow called the Otteneys[a], so called to this day.

A.D. 940—946. Charter of King Eadmund, confirming to Abingdon monastery the grant of Culham, on condition that Abbot Godescale gave up possession of it to Ælfilda, [Ælfleda?] of kin to the royal family, for her life, as Coenulf had granted to his sisters before[b]. As this charter is curious, and we believe has never been printed before, we subjoin it at length.

[a] Dugd. Monast., vol. i. p. 514.

[b] MS. Claud., B. vi. f. 25.

Cotton MS. Claudius B. VI. fol. 25.

Carta regis Edmundi de Culeham.

"Eadmundus Æþelstano fratri succedens confirmavit ecclesie abbend' þa Chenesfeld cum omnibus ad illam integre pertinentibus, quam predictus Aelfricus de consensu domini sui regis Æþelstani domui Abbend' in puram et perpetuam contulerat elemosinam; hac tamen dicione, ut Godescall' abbas abbend' et conventus eiusdem loci concederent cuidam matrone regal' progenci, nomine Ælfildæ, Culeham omnibus diebus vite sue liberam et quietam in ea forma et omni eodem tenore quo rex Kenulfus concessit sororibus suis, que eandem villam huic domui Abbend' contulerunt, ut predictum est, et post decessum ipsius Ælfild villa memorata omni eodem modo ad proprios monachorum usus reuertetur. Quod itaque sic factum est, memorata Ælfilda cedente in fatum; sepulta est Ælfilda matrona ista in capella, quam in honore sancti Vincentii edificaverat."

Mete de Culēham[c].

"Ærest on pylfingford on temese. þ of þylfingaford & lang ane smale dic to þapanhæminga londȝemære on nia heafdo. þford' be þon heafdon on fippel[d] beorȝas. of fippel beorȝon on Culanhema dic & lang dic on æppelford. of æppelforda & lang þære richt temese on butan utan eȝe. þæt eft on pylsingford."

Trans. "First on Wylfingford upon Thames. From Wylfingford along a small dyke to the Nuneham landmarks on the headlands. From the headlands to the five barrows. From the five barrows to Culham dyke. Along the dyke to Appleford. From Appleford along straight to the Thames; and so about the outer stream that leads back to Wylfingford."

A.D. 1110. A miller of Sutton, by name Gamel, was fined five mancuses for stealing earth from the Culham side of the river, for the repair of the mill. The case appears to have been carried by Faritius, the Abbot of Abingdon, to Hugh de Boclande, at that time Sheriff of Berkshire, who referred it to the justiciary of the hundred[e].

A.D. 1111. Charter of Henry I. confirming to Abingdon St. Andrew's Church, Culham, and all grants made by Aubrey de Vere, Beatrice his wife, and their children[f].

A.D. circ. 1125. Vincent, Abbot of Abingdon, "devised to turne the streme of Isis, and at the last brought it on to the very abbay side, and partly thrwghe it. The chefe streme of Isis rane afore betwixt Andersey Isle and Culneham, even where now the southe ende is of Culneham.

[c] It is "Cullanham" in MS. Cot. Claudius, C. ix.

[d] "Fippel" in the Saxon seems to be a corruption of ꝑıꝑalð. So "fiffel-stream" in the Saxon Boethius, quintuplex flumen; as the Punjaub in Northern India is so called from the five tributary streams of the Indus.

[e] MS. Claud., B. vi. f. 135 *b*.

[f] Cotton. MS. Claud. C. ix. fol. 155.

The other arme that brekethe out of Isis aboute a quarter of a mile above Culneham, and then cummithe downe thoroughe Culneham bridge selfe, is now the lesse peace of the hole river[g]."

A.D. 1307. Nicholas de Coleham, Abbot of Abingdon. He is reported to have rebuilt St. Nicholas Church, without the west gate of the Abbey: ob. 1307.

A.D. 1416. Application was made by the fraternity of the Holy Cross, and the commons of Abingdon, to Henry V., and licence granted by letters patent dated Westminster, 20th June, 1416, to John Hutchion, John Brite, and the commons of the same town, to build bridges over Burford and Culhamford[h].

A.D. 1430. An Act of Parliament was passed in this year to confirm the building of the bridges, with orders that the highway between them should be four perches and eight inches broad between the ditches of the said way[i].

The circumstances connected with the building of Culham bridge have been very accurately described in the following metrical narrative, still preserved on the original table, set up by the author in the hall of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, and which has been collated for the present work:—

Henrici quinti regis quarto revoluto
Anno, rex idem pontem fundavit utrumque,
Supra locum binum Borford dictumque Culhamford.
Inter eos namque via regia tendit alta.
Annis adjunctis dat inter gradientibus amplum;
Principium cujus Abendoniæ situatur.
Annis tunc donum M. quater C. numeratis,
Et sexto deno cum fecit opus pietatis.
Vos qui transitis hujus memores bene sitis,
Et vestris precibus fundator sit relevatus.

Off alle Werkys in this Worlde that ever were wrought
Holy chirche is chefe, there children been chersid[a].
For be baptim these Barnes to blisse been i brought,
Thorough the grace of God, and fayre refresshed.
Another blissed besines is brigges to make,
There that the pepul may not passe after greet showres.
Dole[b] it is to drawe a deed body oute of a lake,
That was fulled in a founi stoon[c], and a Felow of oures.

[g] Willis's Mitred Abbeys, in Leland. Collect., vol. vi. p. 192.

[h] Cal. Pat. Rot. 4 Hen. V. m. 23.

[i] On one of the windows in St. Helen's church was formerly the following distich,

"Henricus quintus quarto fundaverat anno
Rex pontem Burford super undas atque Culhamford."

Stevenson's MSS. Gough. Berks.

[a] Christened. [b] Grievous. [c] Washed in the font.

Kyng Herry the fyft in his fourthe Yere,
He hathe i founde for his folke a brige in Berkeschire.
For cartis with cariage may goo and come clere,
That many Wynters afore were mareed in the Myre.
And som oute of her sadels flette[d] to the grounde
Wente forthe in the Water wist no man whare.
Fyve Wekys after or they were i founde,
Her kyn and her knowlech[e] caught hem uppe with care.
Then the Commons of Abendon cryed on the kynge,
Upon Dukes and lordes that were in this londe.
The Kynge bad hem begynne apon Goddes blissing,
And make it also stronge as they couthe with stone, lyme or sonde.
Apon the day of seynt Albon they began this game,
And John Huchyns layde the firste stoon in the kynges name.
Sir Peris Besillis knyght curteys and heend,
For his fadir soule and his frendes he dyd as he scholde.
He gaf hem stonys i nowhe into the werkys ende,
Also mony as they nedid feche hem if they wolde.
Than crafti men for the querry made crowes of yre,
Weges, and wayes and mony harde howys[f],
Jeffray Barbour had pay hem her hyre.
Then must they have moolds to make on the bowys[g].
They cockid for cartes, and cast for her chisyng.
They founde oute the fundement and layde in large stones
They reysid up the archeys be gemeotre in rysyng,
With xi. laborers labyng[h] at onys.
Ther was water i nowhe, stone, lyme and gravel,
Werkemen als wise as they coude fynde any.
And ever had the barbour pay for her travel,
Til a M. Marke be spende eche a peny.
Then the strenghe of the streme astoned hem stronge,
En labor and labyng moche money was lore[i].
Ther lobed hem a ladde was a water man longe,
He helpe stop the streme til the werke were a fore.
Et was a solace to see in a somer seson,
CCC. E wysse wo.kyng at onys.
iiii. and iiii. reulyd be reson,
To wete who wrought best were set for the nonce[k].
The peple prebed her power with the pecoyse[l].
The Mattok was man handeled right wele a whyle.
With spades and schobelis they made suche a noyse,
That men myght here hem thens a myle.
Wyves went oute to wite[m] how they wrought:
V. score in a flok it was a fayre syght.
En bord cloithes bright white brede they brought,
Chees and chekenes clerelych A dyght[n].
These weren the dyches i diged in ful harde grounde,

[d] Fell. [e] Acquaintance. [f] Hoes. [g] Arch-stones.
[h] Baling. [i] Lost. [k] For this especial service.
[l] Pickaxe. [m] Know. [n] Prepared.

And i cast up to arere with the wey,
Sethen they were i set with a quyk mownde
To holde in the bunkes for ever and ay.
The gode lorde of Abendon left of his londe,
For the breed[o] of the brige $\frac{xx}{viii}$. fote large.
It was a greet socour of erthe and of sonde,
And yt he abated the rent of the barge.
An C. pownde, and xb^{li}. was truly payed
Be the hondes of John Huchyns and Banbery also,
For the waye and the barge thus it must be sayed.
Therto witnesse al Abendon, and many oon moo.
For now is Culham hithe i com to an ende,
An al the contre the better and no man the worse.
Few folke there were coude that wey wende,
But they waged a wed[p] or payed of her purse.
And if it were a begger had breed in his bagge,
He schulde be ryght soone i bid for to goo aboute,
And of the pore penyles the hiereward[q] wold habbe
A hood or a girdel, and let hem goo withoute.
Many moo myschebes there weren I say.
Culham hithe hath causid many a curse.
I blyssed be our helpers we have a better waye,
Withoute any peny for cart and for horse.
Thus acordid the kynge and the covent,
And the commones of Abendon as the Abbot wolde.
Thus they were cesed and set al in oon assent,
That al the brekynges of the brige the towne here schulde.
This was previd acte also in the Perlement,
In perpetual pees to have and to holde.
This tale is i tolde in noon other entent
But for myrthe and in memory to yonge and to olde.
Now every good body that gothe on this brige,
Bid for the Barbour gentil Jeffray,
That clothed many a pore man to bed and to rige,
And hathe holpe to rentis to holde up this waye.
The wiche rentes right trewe men have i take on honde,
And graciously governed hem now a good while.
Who so have hem hereafter withe trewthe but he stonde,
It schal be knowen openly he dothe hymselfe begyle.
I counsel every creature to kepe hym from the curse.
For of this treys wil I no more telle.
And be not to covetous to youre owne purse,
For peril of the peynes in the pit of helle.
Now God gebe us grace to folowe treuthe even,
That we may have a place in the blysse of Heven. AMEN.

r. A. B. I. N. D. O. N. R. F. I.

Take the ferst letter of youre foure fader with A, the worker of wex, and I and N, the colore of an asse; set them togeder, and tel me yf you can what it is than. Richard Fannande Iremonger hathe made this tabul, and set it here in the yere of Kyng Herry the sexte xxxvi^{te}.

[o] Breadth. [p] Left something as a pledge. [q] Take for the tolls.

At the time of the dissolution of the Abbey the living of Culham was not in charge in the King's books, probably because it was not of sufficient value. The patronage appears to have been shortly afterwards given to the Bishop of Oxford. The present value is 100*l.* a year, and the population 404.

A.D. 1644. Col. Gage, making an attempt to break down Culham bridge, near Abingdon, where he intended to erect a royal fort, that should have kept that garrison from that side of the country, was shot through the heart with a musket bullet. Prince Rupert was present at the action, having approved and been much pleased with the design, which was never pursued after his death[k].

A.D. 1666. A note of the sum collected in aid of the sufferers by the great fire of London occurs in the parish register as follows:—"Oct. 10th. Collected for the poore of London, disabled by a dismall and lamentable fiere, £1. 3s. 8d.[l]"

[k] Clarendon's Hist. Rebel., 1826, vol. iv. p. 595.

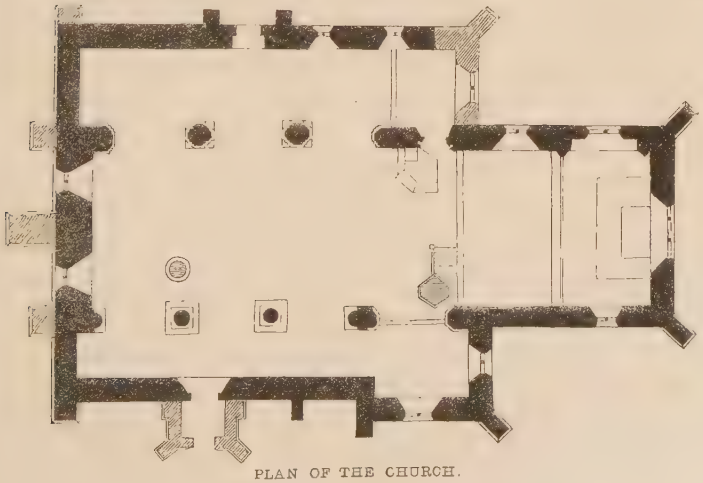
[l] For a full account of the arms and monumental inscriptions in Culham Church, A.D. 1660, see Antony à Wood's MS. E. I., p. 202, Ashmolean Mus. Oxf.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN.

PATRON.
HENRY HUCKS GIBBS, Esq.

St. Michael.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED OF DORCHESTER.



PLAN OF THE CHURCH.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN CHURCH, from the River.

A SMALL Church, of mixed styles, beautifully situated on a cliff at a bend of the river Thames. It has lately been restored, under the direction of Mr. Scott, architect, in extremely good taste, by the present patron, Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs, in pursuance of the wishes of his father, the late Mr. George Henry Gibbs, with whom the design of restoring the Church originated, and who left by will a considerable sum for this object.

The CHANCEL. The east window is good Decorated, of three lights; the side windows are lancet-shaped. On the south side are two sedilia and a piscina, and on the north side a fine tomb, with the recumbent effigy of the late Mr. George Henry Gibbs, above mentioned, is introduced in the place of the Easter sepulchre.

The NAVE has on the south side three transition Norman arches, pointed, with plain Norman caps and bases to the pillars. On the north side are three Decorated arches, with plain mould-

ings continuous to the bases. The roof is a restoration of the old Decorated one, but with additional ornament introduced; this roof is continued over nave and Chancel, there being no Chancel-arch. The nave is divided from the Chancel by a screen. At the west end are two lancet-shaped windows, with foliated heads; between them on the exterior is a tall buttress to carry the bell-turret, which is very elegant, and terminated by a small spire. The south aisle is transition Norman, with a small Decorated chapel added at the east end; in this aisle there is a transition Norman piscina; a good porch, in the Decorated style, has been added on the south side. The north aisle is Decorated, with a plain lean-to roof. A vestry has recently been added at the east end of this aisle. A handsome lich-gate of carved oak has been erected at the entrance of the Church-yard; this adds considerably to the picturesque beauty of the scene, which, as a whole, is seldom equalled. For notes of the arms and monuments of the Church, taken A.D. 1660, see Harleian MSS., Brit. Mus., 4170.

THE LICH-GATE.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Clifton, (cliff town,) so called from its situation as above described, (p. 374,) received the additional name Hampden from Myles Hampden[a], one of its chief Lords in the reign of King Henry VIII., to distinguish it from Clifton Ferry[b], which is on the other side of the water, in the parish of Long Wittenham.

[a] "The Monastrie of Dorchester — payde to Myles Hampden for a quit rent of Clyfton yearly for ever, vjd."—Valor Ecc. ii. p. 171.

[b] Ibid., p. 268.

A.D. 1272. Richard de Clifton held of the Bishop of Lincoln, in chief, two knights' fees in Clifton and Baldon[c], which were soon afterwards held by William de Baldon[d].

A.D. 1538. 29 Hen. VIII. At the Dissolution the possessions of the Abbey of Dorchester in Clifton, and the adjoining village of Burcot, were,

	li	s	d
Rent and farm, with rent of Assize in Byrcote .	2	10	4
The farm of the Rectory of Birdcote, with all tithes and oblations pertaining to the said Rectory, let at will to John Drabayn	4	13	4
Rent of Assize, with rent of customary tenants in Clyftonne	7	2	10
The Rectory of Clyftonne, let to William Yong by indenture under the seal of the Convent, dated 15 March, 17 Hen. VIII., for a term of sixteen years, at a yearly rent of[e]	9	0	0

A.D. 1546. 37 Hen. VIII. The Rectories and Churches, with the Vicarages, Advowsons, &c., of Clyfton and Byrdcomte, which, after the suppression of Dorchester Abbey, had been granted to the Abbey of Oseney, in Oxford[f], on the occasion of its being made (A.D. 1542) the Cathedral Church for the Diocese of Oxford, were, on the 22nd of November in this year, granted by the King to George Rythe, Gentleman, and John Pollard, Esq. On the 18th of December following, George Rythe made over all his share in the said Rectories, Churches, Vicarages, and Advowsons, to John Pollard, from whom these rights descended to his heirs. Burcot is no longer a benefice, and all traces of its Church are lost, except perhaps a mutilated piece of stone sculpture, which may have been the top of a church-yard Cross, representing on one side the Blessed Virgin and Holy Infant, and on the other a crucifix, with figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John the Evangelist. The Rectory, under a commission of enclosure, A.D. 1775, was valued at 76*l.* per annum, and lands assigned in lieu of tithes. The living of Clifton Hampden, late in the peculiar of Dorchester, is now a perpetual Curacy, value 107*l.*; population by the last return 297.

[c] Testa de Nevill, p. 120.

[d] Hundred Rolls, ii. p. 749.

[e] Records in the Exchequer, 29 Hen. VIII., printed in Appendix C to "Some Account of the Abbey Church of Dorchester." J. H. Parker, Oxford, 1846, pp. 79, 92, 157, 166.

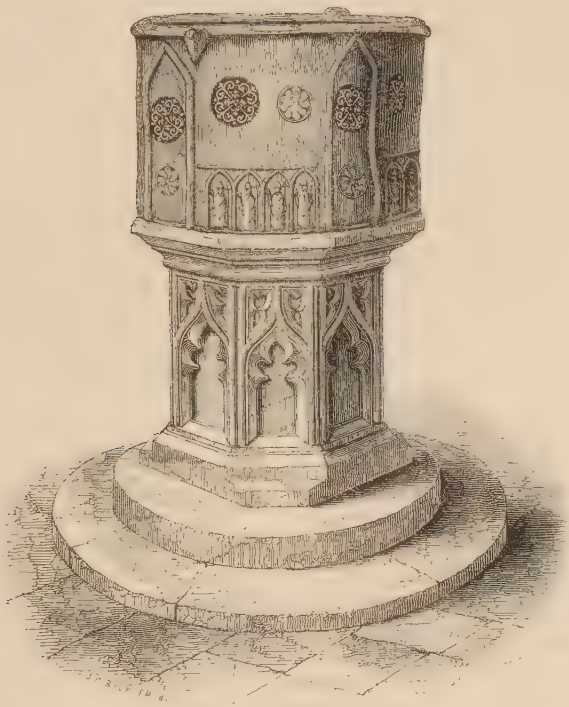
[f] MS. of H. J. Hannam, Esq., of Burcot.

WARBOROUGH.

PATRON.
P. C.
CORPUS CHRISTI COLL.
OXFORD.

St. Laurence.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF EWELME.



THE FONT, WARBOROUGH.

A Church retaining but few of its ancient features, with a modern tower at the west end; the walls of the Chancel are Early English, the strings under the windows remain, and the inner arch of the east window, but the window itself is an insertion of the Decorated period, of three lights, with flowing tracery; a shaft with foliated cap remains on the angle of each side: the side windows are also insertions, some Decorated, some Perpendicular, and there is a small Decorated piscina with the wooden shelf. On the south side is a small doorway of Early English character, on the wooden door of which is some of the original iron-work of the thirteenth century.

The Chancel-arch is destroyed, as are also the last remains of a rood-loft: on the eastern side of the partition remaining between the nave and Chancel is painted the plume of feathers which forms the badge of the Prince of Wales, with the initials C. P. (Carolus Princeps.)

Hinge on the Chancel Door

The walls of the nave are Decorated, with a doorway of the same date, but the windows are insertions of the Perpendicular style.

The Tower is modern, rebuilt in 1666, with some old work.

The Font is of lead, and worthy of particular notice: the figures under the arcade round the base are repetitions of one type representing an archbishop raising the right hand in the attitude of blessing, and holding in the left a crozier. (See the woodcut on the preceding page.) There is one very similar to it at Long Wittenham, most of the ornaments are identical; it is Early English work, but the pedestal is of stone with Perpendicular panelling, similar to that at Dorchester.

On the south side of the Church is a small chapel projecting, of Decorated work; the arch is of wide span, and plain. The south window is of two lights; on the east side of this, in the south wall, is a piscina, and a single seat beside it. The east window is filled up and the Altar removed.

The pewing is quite recent, all open, with poppies, but painted, and otherwise not in good taste, the backs of the pews being too high, and the poppies ill-executed. In the Chancel all the pews are turned with their backs to the Altar. The walls are wainscoted, and ornamented with rows of hat-pegs. The pulpit, reading-desk, and clerk's seat, are in the regular modern gradation. At the west end is a singers' gallery, with garret windows at each end to light it; these are disguised outside with barge-boards.

There is a fine tower-arch, erected in 1666, now boarded up, and the interior of the tower is appropriated to the ringers, for

whom a west entrance was made, A.D. 1844. The south porch is of modern boarding, very bad. In the Church-yard there is the tall shaft of a Perpendicular cross.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A. D. 1272. 1 Edw. I. The Church of Warborough, Wardburg, or Warberewe, was originally a chapel to the Church of Benson[a], and belonged to the Abbot of Dorchester, to whom the mother Church was given by the Empress Matilda[b].

A.D. 1538. 29 Hen. VIII At the Dissolution the possessions of the Abbey of Dorchester in this place were,

The Rectory of Warborowe, with all and singular tithes and profits belonging to it, let to John Holmes, by indenture, under the seal of the Convent of Dorchester, dated 4th day of May, 25 Hen. VIII., for a term of 21 years from the decease or resignation of Roger Smith, Abbot of the said Monastery. The lessee, at his own proper cost, to find bread and wine; and at the feast of Easter, two wax lights on the High Altar, ... £24. 0s. 0d.

Redd' assis' et cust' ten' in Warborowe[c], . . £11. 17s. 4½d.

Warborough was one of the twelve Churches in the late peculiar and exempt jurisdiction of Dorchester. The living is now a perpetual curacy in the patronage of Corpus Christi College in Oxford. The value is £350, and the population, according to the last return, 737.

A.D. 1588. A suit was at this time carried on between Richard Spyer, William Hobbes, and other inhabitants of Warborough, plaintiffs, and the President and scholars of St. John's College in Oxford, defendants, respecting the "Burylands" in Warborough. There is a collection of several documents relating to this suit in the parish chest, and among them are letters patent, granted 24th July, (29 Q. Eliz.,) rehearsing an inquisition, (16 King Hen. VI.), from which it appears that Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, (11 King Edw. I.,) gave to the chapel of St. Nicholas in his castle of Walingford 40*l.* annual rent in Warberewe and Scillingford, which was parcel of the manor of Bensinton, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was reduced to the yearly value of 24*l.*

The rectory, parsonage, and chapel of Warborough, belonging to the late monastery of Dorchester, came into possession of Corpus Christi College by grant from King Henry VIII. in 1537, by way of exchange and purchase, the Crown reserving the tenth part of a knight's fee, viz., 3*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, in lieu of all other services, rent, and demands, and discharged of first fruits and tenths.

J. B.

[a] Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. p. 751, quoted in Historical Notices of Benson.

[b] Abbey Church of Dorchester. Oxford, 1845, p. 89.

[c] See ibid., pp. 92, 142-3, 145, 150, 155.

BENSON.

PATRON.
P. C.
CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

St. Helen.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF EWELME.

EAST VIEW OF THE CHANCEL OF BENSON CHURCH.

A PLAIN Church, of mixed styles; plan oblong, with aisles to the nave, and a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL.—The original part is late Norman; two small round-headed windows and a round-headed doorway remain, they are quite plain, with the original dripstones.

The Chancel-arch is transition from Norman, pointed, the edges chamfered, springing from imposts ornamented with a cluster of Norman mouldings, and a head for a corbel. In the fourteenth century the Chancel was lengthened; the east window of three lights, and the buttresses at the eastern angles, belong to that period.

The NAVE has three pointed arches on each side, recessed, with the edges chamfered, the pillars round, with Early English caps and bases. Of these caps, three are moulded with deep

hollow mouldings, and three sculptured with the stiff-leaf ornament. The aisles are both Decorated. The windows on the south side are of two lights, with quatrefoils in the head, lately well restored; those on the north side have had their tracery cut out, but the dripstones remain. The south door is of the fourteenth century, but quite plain. The tower is modern, substantially built, but a very bad imitation of Gothic. The Font is plain, round, Early English; the pewing is all modern, and very bad, and the Church is much spoiled by galleries.

Under the stove in the middle of the nave is a monumental slab, defaced, but retaining the following portions of the inscription in brass:—

Vivimus incerti, nec spes est carcere clausis
An vitam aut mortem labilis hora dabit.
Dum proavum juvenis gressus colit, inde severa
Mors sequitur juvenem, nec sinit esse senem.

ON THE VERGE OF THE SLAB.

(Freman filius atque heres Gulielmi Freman nuper de Preston-Cromarsh,) qui quidem Gulielmus nupsit (unam filiarum Johannis) Bigge generosi, (et obiit sexto die mensis Junii anno[a].)

The bells, eight in number, are modern.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Benson, or Bensington, to which belongs the hamlet of Crowmarsh Battle, was a place of importance in very early times. The river Thames was here crossed by the old Roman road Akemanstreet, some remains of which are mentioned by Dr. Plot as running west of the Church, and still known by the name of "Medlers-bank." The town was taken and retaken in the Saxon period, and was a long time the court of the Mercian kings.

A.D. 571. This year Cuthwulf (third King of the West Saxons) fought with the Britons at Bedford and took four towns, Lenbury & Aylesbury & "Benningtun" & Eynesham; and in this same year he died[b].

[a] The words in brackets are supplied from Wood's MS., E. I. Ash. Mus. f. 205, where will also be found the inscriptions, formerly in Bensington church; of Stephen Smith, of Turner's courte, A.D. 1606; Elizabeth wife of Wm. Stompe, of Cromarsh Battell, A.D. 1590: also of Ralph and Jane Welch, A.D. 16 . .

[b] Saxon Chronicle, sub anno. See also Dr. Plot's Nat. Hist. of Oxon., p. 348;

A.D. 775. This year Cynewulf King of the West Saxons and Offa (King of the Mercians) fought near "Bynsingtun," and Offa took the town[d]. In a passion for its long defence, Offa dismantled the place; and for the reward of his victory was again possessed of this whole county.

A.D. 1084. 18 William I. At the time of the Domesday survey the manor of "Besintone" belonged to the King, including the socage of the four hundreds and a half[e], which are still called the "Chiltern hundreds," consisting of Pirton, Binfield, Langtree, Lewknor, and the half hundred of Ewelme or Benson. These being by privilege annexed to the Crown, and having their own courts, a steward of those courts is appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a salary of 20s., and all fees, &c. belonging to the office: this is deemed an appointment of sufficient profit to vacate a seat in Parliament.

A.D. 1205. 6 John. By a charter dated at "Denecastre" the first day of March, King John confirmed to Eustace, Abbot, and his successors, and the Canons of Dorkecestre, the Church of Besinton, which had been given to that house by his grandmother, the Empress Matilda, confirmed by his father King Henry the Second, and by his brother King Richard the First[d].

A.D. 1244. 28 Hen. III. The manor of "Bensenton," which, with the four hundreds of "Ciltre," being of the value C^{li}, had been given by King John to John de Harecurt[e], and had afterwards been held by Engelard de Atye, who died without heirs, was now bestowed by King Henry upon his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, on the occasion of his marriage with the Lady Senchia, sister of the Queen Consort[f].

A.D. 1272. 1 Edw. I. Dicunt etiam juratores quod advocacio matricis ecclesie de Bensington' una cum capellis subscriptis scilicet Henlee, Netelbedd, et Wardburg' spectant ad predictum manerium de Bensington et quod Abbas de Dorkecestr' tenet matricem ecclesiam de Be'sinton' cum capellis de Netelbedd et Wardburg. Et dominus Henricus de la More tenet ecclesiam de Henlee de dono domini Ricardi quondam comitis Cornubie[g].

A.D. 1308. 1 Edw. II. The King granted the manor of Bensington, with all other lands which Edmund earl of Cornwall held at his death, as well in reversion as possession, to Piers de Gaveston[h].

A.D. 1416. 4 Hen. V. Lands and tenements in "Bensynton"

Bp. Kennett, i. 23, 33, 44, 46; and Camden, Mag. Brit. com. Oxon.

[c] Domesday Book, vol. i. f. 154 b.

[d] See the charter at length, "Abbey Church of Dorchester," p. 89.

[e] Testa de Nevill., p. 107; see also p. 118.

[f] Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. pp. 30-3, and 43.

[g] Ibid., p. 751.

[h] Bp. Kennett, sub anno, from Dugd. Bar., vol. ii. p. 42 b.

were held by Sir Richard, son of Thomas, Lord Camoys[i]. Other possessions in Benson belonged to the Abbeys of Oseney and Thame, and to the Nunneries of Godstow and Littlemore[k].

A.D. 1538. 29 Hen. VIII. At the Dissolution, the Abbey of Dorchester, besides divers messuages in Benson and Walynford, possessed the Rectory of Bensingtonn, with tithes and all profits, let to Henry Reybone, by indenture, under the seal of the Convent of Dorchester, dated 9th day of July, 4 Hen. VIII., for a term of thirty-one years[l], at a yearly rent of 21*l.* 0s. 0d.

The Rectory of Netelbed[m], originally a Chapel to Benson Church, was let to Roger Hatcheman, at a yearly rent of 13s. 4d.

The Parsonage of Benson, value 15*l.*, was given by King Henry VIII. to the College which he founded in Oxford[n], and the living, which was one of the twelve in the late peculiar and exempt jurisdiction of Dorchester, is now a perpetual Curacy in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, value £180. Population, according to the last return, 1254.

J. B.

[i] Borstall Chartulary, quoted in Historical Notices of Great Milton.

[k] Hundred Rolls, ii. p. 31.

[l] "Abbey Church of Dorchester," 1845, pp. 142-3, 147, 163-4.

[m] Ibid., p. 168.

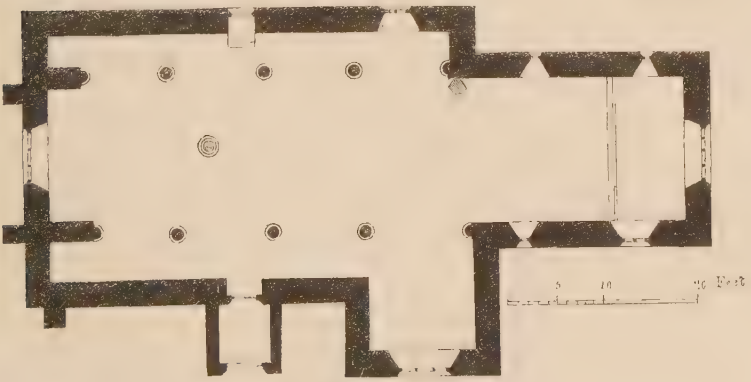
[n] Dugd. Mon. N. E. ii. p. 170.

TOOT BALDON.

PATRON.
SIR H. P. WILLOUGHBY, BART.

St. Laurence.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED OF BULLINGTON.



PLAN OF TOOT BALDON CHURCH

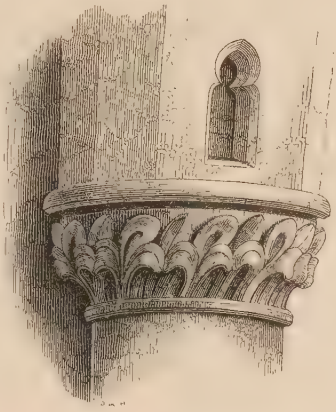
WEST VIEW OF THE CHURCH.

A SMALL Early English Church, plan oblong, with aisles to the nave, and a bell-gable for two bells at the west end.

The CHANCEL on the north side has two lancet windows, small openings widely splayed within, and a small square locker close to the east end. On the south side another lancet window, and a Decorated window of two lights, without cusps; the outer arch is pointed, with the roll-moulding for a label, inside there is a segmental arch; this window is very clumsy work. There is another small square locker close to the east wall on this side also. The east window, inserted in the course of some repairs of the Chancel A.D. 1800, is extremely ugly, being of woodwork, with a shutter outside.

The NAVE has four Early English arches on each side, pointed, not recessed, but the edges chamfered off; the pillars on the north side have the caps sculptured with the stiff-leaf ornament bold and good, very early in the style. The eastern respond, which is of this character, has a small trefoil-headed niche immediately above the cap, supposed to have been for the holy oil used in baptism by the Roman Church, and therefore to mark

the original place of the font. The caps on the south side have mouldings also of very early character; the hood-moulds of the arches are very simple, almost Norman. The north aisle has a Decorated two-light window, square-headed, with a dripstone, the lights have trefoil heads. At the west end of this aisle is a very small lancet window, not more than eighteen inches high, widely splayed within. The north door is Norman, round-headed, with plain imposts.



Cap on the North Side

On the south side a small chapel has been thrown out in the fourteenth century, with a Decorated window of three lights, the mullions crossing in the head, without cusps, containing, in painted glass at the top, a head of our Saviour. The south door is very plain, with a segmental head of wood, which seems to be work of the fourteenth century: the porch is modern, a fair imitation of the transition from Norman.

The west window of the nave is Decorated, of two lights, without cusps. At this end there are two Early English buttresses, and a double bell-gable of very early character. The roofs are wide spreading, covering over nave and aisles under one span; they are all hidden by ceilings, except the tie-beams and wall-plates, which are quite plain.

The Font is plain round, Early English, standing on two round steps in the centre of the Church, towards the west end, nearly opposite the south door. There are a number of encaustic tiles in this Church, but they are much worn.

In the Church-yard is the shaft of a Perpendicular cross, with part of the shaft remaining.

The situation of this Church is very good, on the top of a small hill.

MARSH BALDON.

PATRON. SIR H. P. WILLOUGHBY, BART.

St. Peter.

DEANERY OF CUDDESDEN. HUNDRED OF BULLINGDON.

PLAN OF MARSH BALDON CHURCH

A SMALL Church, which has a Tower at the west end, so much overgrown with ivy that little can be known of its style, but it appears to be Decorated, with a west window of two lights: the lower part is square, and the upper part octagonal.

The CHANCEL. The east window has been removed to the north aisle, and its place occupied by a copy of a fine painting, representing the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, the gift of Sir Christopher Willoughby (A.D. 1794), whose arms are painted on a shield above it. On the south side is a good Perpendicular piscina, and the window adjoining to it, of the same age, has a seat formed in the sill. In this window are some bits of old glass mixed with modern, the latter consisting chiefly of the armorial bearings of the families of Danvers and Pollard, successively connected with Baldon. The other window on the south side is also Perpendicular, with remains apparently of a low side opening, under it.

The Nave has on the south side one Perpendicular window, and two unsightly insertions of modern days. The south door is small and plain, of the form called the square-headed trefoil; it is probably of the fourteenth century, and the barge-boards of the porch appear to be of the same age. On the north side is an aisle, the pillars and arches of which are modern, of wood, and very bad; they appear to have been cut out of deal board. The window on the north side, removed from the east end, is filled with fragments of painted glass, of various ages. In the centre, under a canopy of Decorated work (temp. Ed. III.), is a figure of St. Ann, in the costume of the fourteenth century, teaching the Blessed Virgin: the figures on each side of this subject are much later, one representing a female saint, and the other St. John the Evangelist. Above these are two coats of arms, early in the fourteenth century: the first, (of which the wrong side is exposed to the weather,) Gules, three lions passant Argent, being the coat of the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, whose ancestor, Walter Giffard, a follower of the Conqueror, held nine lordships in Oxfordshire[a]: the other coat is Gules, two lions passant gardant Argent, name De la Mare. The family of De la Mare[b] were lords of Marsh Baldon, and patrons of the Chapel and Vicarage, in the thirteenth and fourteenth

The South Porch

Wall-plate in the Porch

[a] See Domesday Survey, f. 157 b, and Dugdale's Baronage. [b] Dugd. Bar., ii. p. 28.

centuries[c]. The next coat in the order of time is one at the bottom of the window, of the Royal Arms of England in the time of King Henry the Eighth. The arms above and to the right of the figure of St. Ann, which belong to the seventeenth century, are, Argent, a cheveron Azure, between three scallops Gules (Pollard): quartering Argent, a cheveron Sable between three mullets Gules, pierced (Danvers). To the left is another coat of the same date.

The Font is modern and diminutive; and there are two very bad imitation Gothic monuments against the north wall of the Chancel, one to the memory of friends of Sir Christopher Willoughby, Bart., the other to the memory of relations. On the opposite side is a monument with twisted columns, figures of cherubs, and a long Latin inscription, to the memory of Ann, daughter of John Pollard and Susanna Danvers, of Baldon. This lady was the wife of John Crawley, D.D., and deceased A.D. 1701: above are the arms of Crawley; impaling, Pollard.

On the floor of the Chancel are two less ostentatious monuments, consisting of stone slabs inlaid with brass; one of which, marking the burial-place of John Danvers, has above the inscription the following coat, quarterly, 1. a cheveron between three mullets of six points (Danvers); 2. on a bend, three martlets; 3. chequée, a chief guttée; 4. frettée of six: in fess

"Here lyeth enterred ye body of Iohn Danvers late of March Balden, in ye Covnty of Oxon, Esq., who deceased the 26 of April, Ao 1651."

[c] A.D. 1241-4. Petrus de la Mare presentavit ad capellam de Mershe Baldington et ad vicariam de Merke baudinton anno vjo. et ixo. Rob. Grostête. R. Dodsworth, MS. Bodl. Lib., vol. 107. f. 78 b.

A.D. 1294. Magister Will. de Monteforti decanus Sci Pauli London, ratione custodie terrarum et heredis quondam Domini Petri Delamare, presentavit ad ecclesiam Mersbaldindon, anno xiiijo. Oliver Sutton. Ibid., f. 163 b.

A.D. 1305. Robertus Delamare presentavit ad capellam de Mersbaldindon, anno vo. J. Dalderby. Ibid., f. 200.

point a mullet of difference. The other monument, to the memory of Bishop Bridges, has a shield, upon which are engraved the arms of the Bishopric of Oxford, impaling three owls within a tressure counter-fleurée[d].—(Bridges.)

"Here vnder lyeth bvried y^e body of y^e Reverend Father, Iohn Bridges, late Bishopp of Oxon, who dep'ted this lyfe y^e xxvi day of March, An^o D'ni 1618."

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name Baldendone, Baldington, or Baldon, has from very early times been common to several townships lying within the boundaries of Baldon *field*, consisting chiefly of Toot Baldon, with its hamlets Baldon St. Laurence, and Little Baldon; and Marsh Baldon, which is a separate parish without any hamlet annexed.

The Roman road called Akemanstreet, says Dr. Plot, passed by the two Baldons in the way from Shotover to Wallingford[e]. From the mention of "beald dun" (bold down) in the boundaries of Sandford, A.D. 1050, it would appear that the shorter form of the name prevailed even in Saxon times[f].

A.D. 1084. 18 William I. At the Norman survey the principal landowners here were, in Baldendone, within the half hundred of Besenton, Svain, the sheriff (vicecomes), who held six hides of the King and Hugh of him[g]. In Baldendone, within the hundred of Dorchester, the Bishop of Lincoln, under whom Iseward held five hides, and Bristeua two hides and a half[h].

A.D. 1255. 9 Hen. III.[i] Bullenden'. In Baudendon sunt xxx hide terre quarum Willielmus de Baudendon' tenet v hidas et dimidiam de Episcopo Lincolniensi per servicium unius feodi militis et sequitur hundred'.[k]

[d] See Harleian MS., 4170. The upper part of the dexter side of the shield being now defaced on the brass plate, the engraving has been completed from the obituary window of Robert Kynge, first Bishop of Oxford, put up in Christ Church Cathedral by his descendants, A.D. 1630. See also the engravings of bishops' arms prefixed to Bishop Sparrow's collections, and those in Guillim's Treatise of Honour, p. 124.

[e] Nat. Hist. Oxf., ch. 10. § 27, 28, quoted by Bishop Kennett, vol. i. p. 23.

[f] Cot. MS. Brit. Mus. Claud. B. vi. f. 114, 115.

[g] Domesday Book, vol. i. p. 160.

[h] Ibid., 155 b. See also 156 bis, 157, 159 b.

[i] Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. p. 39.

[k] These five hides were in Little Baldon, (Parva Baldindon'.) See ibid., p. 724.

Item Robertus de la Mare tenet x hidas per servicium unius feodi militis tent' de domino Ricardo comite Cornubie et est de honore Walingford non sequitur hundr'.[l]—Item dominus Episcopus Lincolniensis tenet ij hidas et dimidiam pertinentes ad baroniam de Dorkecestre non sequitur hundr'.[m]—Item Johannes de Mortayn tenet unam hidam et dimidiam terre de Burghfond per servicium quarte partis unius feodi militis et sequitur hundr'.[n]—Item Georgius de Luches tenet iij hidas terre de Priore de Nuiun ad feodi firmam pro lxs. per annum et sequitur hundr'.—Item Robertus de Luches tenet unam hidam et dimidiam per servicium trium parcium dimidii feodi unius militis de baronia sci Walerici non sequitur hundr'.[o]—Item Johannes de Scaccariis, Walterus filius Rogeri, Willielmus de Scropes tenent vi hidas pro equalibus porcionibus de Ada Dispensatore per servicium unius feodi militis et seq' hundr'.—Dominus Robertus, Persona capelle de Baldindon', (sc. Marsh Baldon) tenet unam virgatam terre de eodem feodo (sc. Petri de la Mare) que pertinet ad predictam capellam faciendo inde servicium domini Regis quantum pertinet[p].

A.D. 1316. 9 Edw. II. By a return made in this year it appears that the lordship of the Baldons was shared as follows[q]:—

Hundredum de Bolinden est Domini Regis.

Villa de Baldinden sci Laurencii cum Totbaldinden, Mershbaldinden, et Parva Baldinden. } Dni { Ricardus de Louches[r] / Lucia de la Mare / Jo' Bradele.

A.D. 1437. 15 Hen. VI. Thomas Baldington, and his wife Agnes, besides Baldyndone's manor, and various other possessions in Thame, North Weston, Aldebury, Ruycote, were seized of one messuage, one virgate of land, two acres of meadow, and two acres of feedings in Baldyngdone[s]. The lady here mentioned was the daughter of Sir John Danvers of Banbury, Cothorp, and Ipwell, Oxon, by his first wife. Their daughter and heir Agnes, was married to William Brome[t], Esq., the restorer of Holton church in the fifteenth century, and founder of the

[l] These ten hides are the same which were afterwards held by Peter de la Mare in "Mersbaldindone." See ibid., p. 724.

[m] These two hides and a half are mentioned ibid., p. 724. Hence, perhaps, arose the name "Bishop's Baldon," a part of St. Laurence Baldon. See Rayner on Tithes, p. 597.

[n] Sir John de Mortoyn held in Baldindon' sci Laurencii. See ibid., p. 724.

[o] G. and R. de Louches held in Baldon St. Laurence, as did also the tenants of Despenser. Ibid., pp. 724, 725.

[p] Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. p. 724.

[q] Parl. Writs, vol. ii. div. 3. p. 351.

[r] For further particulars of Richard de Louches and his family, see the historical notices of Great Milton.

[s] Esch. 15 Hen. VI., No. 28.

[t] Compare Bp. Kennett, Par. Ant., vol. ii. p. 414, with Esch. 21 Ed. IV., No. 36.

south chapel, where his brass effigy still remains (A.D. 1461), which was formerly accompanied[u] by a coat of arms similar to that cut in stone on the east gable of the nave at Holton, viz. (Sable,) on a cheveron within a border (Argent) 3 broom-slips (Vert) (Brome); quartering (Argent,) on a chevron (Sable,) between 3 pellets, as many roses (of the field.) (Baldington.) This coat of the Baldingtons of Baldington was quartered for several generations by the Bromes of Holton, and after them by the Whorwoods[x].

A.D. 1509. 24 Hen. VII., April 2. The manor of Baldington St. Laurence, Oxon., with all its appurtenances, whether they be in the villages of Baldington St. Laurence, Tutbaldington, Marshbaldington, Parva Baldington, and Garsingdon, &c. were given to Queen's College, in Oxford, by Edward Hilton, Fellow, and Edward Rigge, Provost of the College. The manor of Tutbaldington was within two days afterwards given to the same College, by Christopher Bainbrigge, sometime Provost of Queen's College, and afterwards Archbishop of York[y].

A.D. 1538. 29 Hen. VIII. At the time of the Ecclesiastical Survey, the clear receipts of Queen's College were,—From the manor of Baldington St. Laurence, and its appurtenances, in Marsh Baldington, Tot Baldington, and Garsington, per ann. 17*l.* 19s. 11d. From the manor of Tot Baldington and its appurtenances, and parcells in Marshebaldington, and Stanton St. John, 10*l.* 6s. 8d.

The manors of Toot Baldon, and Baldon St. Laurence[z], still belong to

[u] Wood's MS. Ash. Mus. E. 1. and D. 14.

[x] See monuments in Holton Church.

[y] Wood's Hist. and Antiq. Oxon. ed. Gutch, vol. iii. p. 144.

[z] It is remarkable, that all the Baldons keep as their feast of dedication the festival of St. Laurence. And there is much reason to suppose that originally the only parish of Baldon was attached to a Church of St. Laurence, built at Baldon under the care of the bishop and convent of Dorchester. The name Tot, Tut, or Toot, at first used to distinguish a small part of it, was derived from some early proprietor, or possibly from Tota, whom Bp. Godwin mentions as bishop of Dorchester about A.D. 787. In the thirteenth century (see above, pp. 388, 390) Peter de la Mare, or Mere, built and endowed a chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, in a part of the parish which, from its being the residence of his family, was called Mersbaldindon, Mare's Baldon. This chapel, as early as A.D. 1341, (Inquisit. Nonarum, p. 135,) was called a parish Church, and is said not to have been subject to Toot Baldon as the mother Church. For a full view of the ecclesiastical history of the Baldons, see "Cases at large concerning Tithes," by John Rayner, of the Inner Temple. London, 1783; Mich. term, 11 Geo. III., A.D. 1770, pp. 574—621. At the Dissolution, A.D. 1538, the rectory of Baldon was let at will to Thomas Bysseley, at a rent of £7, and the king, by letters patent, granted a lease of the said rectory to Dionysius Toppis. "Account of Dorchester Abbey Church," pp. 92. 168.

Queen's College, Oxford, and that of Marsh Baldon is possessed by Sir H. P. Willoughby, whose predecessor, Sir Christopher Willoughby of Baldon House, Oxon., was created a Baronet, Dec. 8, 1794[a].

Toot Baldon, formerly in the peculiar of Dorchester Abbey, to which house the Rectory was impropriate, is now a Vicarage, the advowson belonging to Sir H. P. Willoughby, who is the lay rector. Value, £30. Population 270.

Marsh Baldon is now a Rectory, also in the gift of Sir H. P. Willoughby: Value, £93; population, 300. J. B.

COWLEY.

St. James.

PATRON.
DEAN AND CHAPTER
OF CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

DEANERY
OF CUDDESDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF COWLEY CHURCH.

The Church of Cowley consists of a Nave and Chancel, with a very low western tower and a south porch, rebuilt in a debased style. The structure comprises several dates and styles, the Chancel being of Early English, and the tower of Perpendicular character, with Decorated windows in the nave.

[a] Betham's Baronetage, iv. p. 262.

Both the north and south doors of the nave, and the priest's door in the north wall of the Chancel, are round-headed.

In the east wall is a good window, of three lancet-lights, which have dripstones on the exterior, terminated by the ornaments called masks, so characteristic of this period. The side windows are long and narrow like the usual lancet windows, but are square at the top, a very unusual feature in work of the 13th century, as these evidently are, and at the south-west of the Chancel is one of those singular openings, called by Rickman *low side-windows*, of which the object, though often discussed, is not yet ascertained. The one at Cowley is square-headed and divided by a transom, the part below the transom (which as usual is blocked up) being somewhat narrower than that above it.

Low Side-Window.

The Chancel-arch is a handsome one of Early English or transition date. In the north and south walls of the Chancel are niches (perhaps aumbryes) with square trefoil heads, and a pointed trefoiled piscina on the south.

On the east gable are the remains of a good cross: and under the windows is a very good string of the form called the roll or scroll moulding.

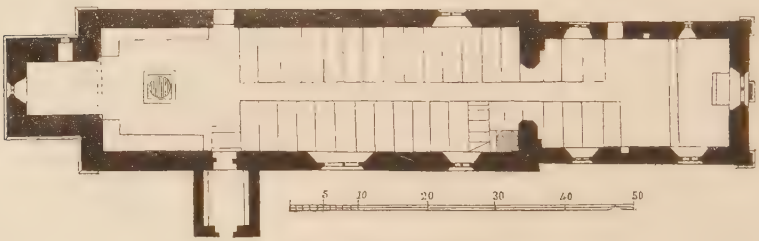
The Font is plain and rude, the plug and chain remain-

Tower of Cowley Church

ing. The bench-ends and poppies in the nave bear the date of 1632, and are very creditably carved for that period.

A stone bench runs round the greater part of the Church. A north and west gallery (the former of which has scarcely any visible support) produce a very unsightly effect.

The Tower is Perpendicular, and bears so much resemblance to that of Horsepath in design, situation, proportion, and detail, that there can be little doubt this was copied from it. That of Horsepath is perhaps somewhat earlier. (See wood engraving on previous page.)



PLAN OF COWLEY CHURCH

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Temple Cowley and Church Cowley have been so called from a very early period[a]. The former was, at the time of the Conquest, held by Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, whose daughter, the Empress Matilda, gave it to the Knights Templars, and the grant was shortly afterwards confirmed by King Stephen[b]. The Preceptory established here was removed to Sandford at the beginning of the reign of Edward I.[c], and upon the suppression of the Knights Templars, A.D. 1312, their possessions in this place were given to the Knights Hospitalars of St. John of Jerusalem[d]. Church Cowley, so called from its having a parish Church, while the other Cowley only had a Church or Chapel attached to the Precep-

[a] Hundred Rolls, ii. A.D. 1272, and Lieger Book of Sandford, A.D. 1274. Bodleian Library, MS. Wood 10.

[b] See the Charters at length in Dugdale's Monasticon, N. E. vol. vii. p. 842, from Wood's MS. 10.

[c] See Historical Notices of Sandford.

[d] See the Rent Book of the Knights Hospitalars of St. John, A.D. 1512. C. C. C., Oxon., MS. Davis.

tory of Knights Templars[e], was given to Oseney Abbey, in Oxford, by Robert D'Oyley the founder[f]. At the Dissolution of the Abbey the advowson of the Church was given by King Henry VIII. to his new College, now Christ Church, in Oxford[g]. The living is now a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, value 64*l*; population by the last return 606.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHAPEL AND HOSPITAL.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHAPEL.

In the parish of Cowley are the remains of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, situated about half a mile from Magdalene Bridge, on the borders of Cowley Marsh, with the small desecrated chapel of transition character between Decorated and Perpendicular, dedicated to St. Bartholomew. In form it is a parallelogram,

[e] A.D. 1143, 8, 9 King Stephen. Robert de Oiley and Edith his wife granted to the Knights Templars (besides what they had before given to them) land to the value of 6*s.* 4*d.* per annum, toward the dedication of their Church of Covele or Cowley, near Oxford, which was now consecrated by the Bishop of Hereford, with consent of the Bishop of Lincoln. Bp. Kennett, Par. Ant., vol. i. p. 136. See also ibid., 91, 197, 275, 519, 511; ii. 140, 252.

[f] Dugdale's Monasticon, art. Oseney Abbey. Prior de Osen. presentavit ad vicariam de Cowley. Ext. Linc. Reg. An. 22, Hugh Wells, 14 K. Hen. III. Dodsworth, MS. CVII. f. 42 b.

[g] Ibid., art. Christ Church, in Oxford.

without tower or bell-gable: the opening for the bell in the west gable is now blocked up, and has the appearance of an upper window; it is marked more distinctly on the woodcut than it really appears. At the west end is a door and over it a small window and niche; on the north side a smaller door and one elegant window; an inferior window at the east without hood-moulding, and two windows on the south, of which the hood-mouldings are very good.

Two altar-steps remain in the interior, and an oak roodscreen, bearing the late date of 1651, and the letters O. C., probably for Oriel College, to whom this Hospital was attached from a very early period, and at whose expense the domestic buildings of the Hospital were rebuilt in 1649, after their destruction in the civil wars. The roof is plain, of open timber-work, probably of the same age as the screen.

The East Window.

On each side of the west door is a cross patée in a circle, painted in dark fresco, and traces of painting may be found in other parts of the Chapel.

It appears from an estimate lately taken, that a chapel may be built on the model of St. Bartholomew's at the small cost of 280*l.*, not including the fittings, and supposing materials to be as abundant as in this neighbourhood. It would be well suited for a chapel to be attached to a burial ground, and working drawings of it have lately been published by our Society with a view to that object.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1128, or 1132—3. King Henry I., induced by its vicinity to his palace at Beaumont, erected a Chapel on this site to the memory of S. Bartholomew, and an edifice adjoining for leprous folk, with a house for a friar or chaplain who should govern them, and for his pains receive yearly six marks; and both he and they should daily pray for the health of the King and Queen's souls: which Hospital, raised by the overplus of the materials necessary for the King's building his palace at Beaumont, was finished about 1126, from whence, at the times of the Royal abode at the palace, with alms and broken meat from his table, it sufficiently sustained itself[a].

A.D. 1279. "Domus Sancti Bartholomei extra Oxon, fundata fuit a Domino Rege Henrico veteri, qui bonam Reginam Matildam duxit in uxorem, et assignata fuit ad hospitationem et sustentationem infirmorum leprosorum, et constituit conventum, viz., 12 Fratrum et unius Capellani ad quorum sustentationem assignavit idem Dominus Rex 23 libras argenti et 5d. de redditu Oxon, de Maiore et Ballivis Oxon, etc.[b]"

Various benefactions to this Hospital are recorded, for which it may be sufficient here to refer to Ant. Wood's History of the City of Oxford, published by Sir John Peshall, 4to. p. 274.

A.D. 1329. King Edward III., in the second year of his reign, granted to Oriel College this Hospital and all that belonged to it, on certain conditions, for the use of wholesome air in times of pestilential sicknesses[c].

"The Chapel, originally erected by King Henry I., and dedicated to St. Bartholomew, being in a manner run to ruin in King Edward the Second's time, was then rebuilt; for which pious end, John, the son of Lawrence Serthe, a person of a religious turn, gave 18 marks, upon this condition, that though at that time he lay under no bodily infirmities, he might be elected to the Hospital on a vacancy. This condition was accordingly observed, the King himself peremptorily, and by a charter, commanding it[d]."

A.D. 1336. "H. Burghwersh, Bishop of Lincoln, by his writing dated at Cudelington (Kidlington,) in this county, 2 cal. Jun., granted 40 days' indulgence to all who would devoutly come to the Chapel of

[a] Wood's History of the City of Oxford, by Peshall, p. 273.

[b] Rot. Hund. de Bolendon in turre Lond. anno 6, 7, Edw. I.

[c] Vide Mon. Ang., vol. ii. p. 437.

[d] Peshall, p. 278.

S. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the feast of the said Saint, or eight days after, and then with prayers, oblations, and gifts, worship him; and also of their charity contribute relief towards the leprous almsfolk thereof. Upon the publication of which, multitudes of people resorted there, and performed that which the Bishop required, to the great benefit of the priests and poor; and to honour this Saint the more, they set up his image in the windows, and on the wall of the Chapel, which was celebrated also for the relics of Saints, afterwards removed to St. Mary's in Oxford. A procession was afterwards made annually to this Chapel, and this custom was continued until the Reformation of religion: when Queen Elizabeth's act against Images, &c., appeared, this image was pulled down. Whence this custom for a while slept, and the alms-folk were by degrees reduced to poverty, and became the objects of compassion. But the worthy Fellows of New College principally, among others, changing the former day to May-day, and Holy Thursday, used the same way as before; and this was in A. Wood's time their laudable and constant custom, till the Presbyterian times totally abolished it."

In the time of Ant. à Wood, "Divine service was performed in this chapel a few times in the summer, when the almsmen could walk thither; a Presbyter of Oriel College was appointed to officiate, at 40s. per annum[e]."

If we are to believe the present Chapel to be in its main features the same with that erected in 1336, it affords a remarkably early instance of the change from the Decorated to the Perpendicular style. That the repairs after the civil wars did not affect the main fabric is clear from the account of Wood, who was an eye witness. He says, "This Chapel was formerly covered with lead, but in the late rebellion it was torn off for making bullets. It suffered greatly, having been put *by the saints* to base uses. They stole also the bell, which used in those times to be rung to call the members of the Hospital to prayers."

"In 1643 the Hospital House was occupied by people who had the plague, and became a pest-house; but about the time of the siege of Oxford was quite demolished. It was re-edified by the College anno 1649." The Chapel is not here included, but the Hospital-house only.

[e] Peshall, p. 279.

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